

London shares fall 54 points

Pound survives first ERM test as dollar slumps

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND COLIN NARBROUGH

THE pound survived its first test yesterday in a crucial week for the currency markets as co-ordinated central bank action failed to stem the collapse of the dollar.

Although sterling briefly hit \$2 for the first time since the Gulf war, it dropped to its lowest against the mark since Britain joined the European exchange-rate mechanism. It stood at DM2.8001 at the official 4pm London market close, a fall of half a pence since Friday.

In London, the FTSE-100 index of leading shares dropped 54.6 to 2,311.1, reflecting a fall on Wall Street, fears about higher British interest rates and poor trade figures.

Sterling's steadiness against the mark on a day when the French franc and the Italian lira all lost ground was seen as a vindication of the government's tactics of combining central bank intervention with a staunch commitment to the pound's parity within the ERM.

However, with the pound hovering around DM2.80 in a nervous market, close to its ERM floor, nobody in Whitehall was declaring the battle over. With a tough week ahead, Treasury sources said

last night that the government remained committed to taking whatever steps were necessary to keep the currency within its ERM limits.

"If the markets did not appreciate our resolve in defending sterling, they do now," one senior Downing Street source said.

The Treasury was also drawing comfort from sterling's performance in the light of the operation launched over the weekend to remind dealers of the government's commitment to the ERM bands. But the government's relief at averting an immediate interest rate rise was clouded by a big rise in the trade deficit and a 55-point fall in the stock market.

John Major returned to his desk at Downing Street yesterday morning and was given an update on the state of the pound by Mary Francis, his economic private secretary, and Alex Allan, his principal private secretary and a former Treasury official.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, arrived back at the Treasury early last night from his holiday in Italy and was swiftly immersed in detailed briefings with his senior officials.

John Townsend, chairman of the Tory backbench treasury committee, said on

Channel Four News last night that this week would be a trial for the ERM: "This is a time when we need Europe to be united... If membership of the ERM means we have to increase interest rates when we are in the depths of the depression when many people are going out of business, I like many people will say we can't afford it."

He added: "It is most unfair to blame the Chancellor. He will survive it. He has the support of the majority of the party. People are calling it a sterling crisis. It is really a dollar crisis."

As the trade deficit yawed from £747 million in June to £934 million last month, Labour resumed its attack on the government's economic policies. Robin Cook, the trade and industry spokesman, said the figures were more evidence that the government was failing the country.

Only halfway through 1992 Britain has clocked up a deficit larger than the whole of last year, he said. "We are now adding millions of pounds to the trade deficit every hour."

Labour's attack on the government was undermined, however, by a fierce rebuke from Peter Shore, a veteran Euro-sceptic former minister, for his party's calls for lower interest rates while remaining within the ERM. Such "economic illiteracy" was destroying the credibility of the Opposition, he said.

Downing Street said that the prime minister was kept fully informed through the day about the state of the market. About the time of Mr Lamont's return, Mr Major met Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, David Hogg, a junior Foreign Office minister, and foreign policy advisers in preparation for the conference to be held in London tomorrow on the former Yugoslavia.

Last night, he was being given a full briefing on the economy while Mr Lamont worked at the Treasury. Downing Street sources said they expected Mr Major and Mr Lamont to "touch base" today.

John Carlisle, the Euro-sceptic MP from Luton North, said that Mr Lamont had been told to stay off radio and television broadcasts for fear of undermining confidence in the pound. He suggested that Mr Lamont might have to go.

"I feel Mr Lamont's position now must be in great jeopardy and unless something is done and the prime minister himself steps in, either to replace the Chancellor or at least to reinforce him and the policies and to bring confidence back... then we may have to have a change of Chancellor."

Currency market analysts found yesterday's dollar support action by about 15 central banks, including the Bank of England, rather halfhearted, probably reflecting a concern not to repeat the mistakes of Friday's misguided and costly intervention. The central bankers now appear to be waiting for the market to become short of dollars before launching a serious drive to push it higher.

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Mother's joy: Mrs Greenwood with Brett yesterday: "He has proved he's a little fighter"

Baby born 17 weeks premature survives

BY RAY CLANCY

BRETT Greenwood, the most premature baby to be born in Britain, left the special care baby unit at Leeds general infirmary yesterday, three months after astounding his family and doctors with his will to live.

When he arrived unexpectedly on May 23 he was 17 weeks premature and weighed 1lb 5oz. His hand was the size of his father's fingernail, his body the length of a man's watch strap and doctors gave him a one in ten chance of survival.

His parents Christine and Mark Greenwood, both 22, were told that although he was not the smallest baby his underdeveloped organs increased the risks that he would not survive.

But Brett's weight has trebled to 4lb 2.5 oz and he measures 17½ in. Yesterday he was taken to Burnley general hospital, which is nearer to his parents' home in Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, and may be able to home in four weeks.

He spent the first ten weeks of his life linked to a ventilator and drips on a life-support machine and doctors gave him a 15-week course of steroids to help him survive.

Mrs Greenwood said: "It's confirmed on page 14, col 3"

Hurricane speeds up and takes Miami by surprise

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN CORAL GABLES, MIAMI

WHEN Hurricane Andrew came ashore in south Miami before dawn yesterday it seemed to be on a mission: to destroy as much as possible. But, judging by the path it took, there was one goal in particular — to wreak vengeance on the building that had been spying on its progress since Andrew started to blow two weeks ago off the African coast.

The US National Hurricane Centre in Coral Gables, south Miami, had been chattering every blink of the eye in Andrew's storm, every move, each little change of direction and burst of speed. Floridians were glued to their weather maps and radar pictures as Andrew moved inexorably towards land.

Until late on Sunday Andrew had appeared to be heading for north Miami. The alert went out early in Miami Beach and other coastal regions where a million people were ordered to leave their homes. About 75,000 people took refuge in shelters operated by the Red Cross.

But then, as Miami slept in

expectation of hurricane winds arriving by 8 o'clock in the morning, Andrew played its trump card. It veered to the right, turning south and, in a burst of pace, gave the city of Miami a rude 5 o'clock wake-up call.

By the time the hurricane centre had got out a warning, Andrew was on top of the forecasters and meteorologists. Winds clocked at 140 mph over the building, shaking its foundations and blowing in windows on the sixth and seventh floors. Forecasters were trapped on the sixth floor and the ceiling was shredded on the seventh.

In a prize act of demolition, Andrew gobbled up the 25th satellite dish and radar system on the building's roof, that had been tracking it, disabling the centre's operations. "The dish is somewhere out there flying around south Florida," Al Sandrick, of the hurricane centre, said. "It is just debris now," he added.

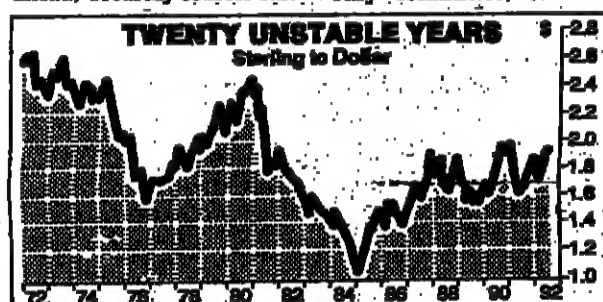
The eye of the hurricane hit south Florida just south of Miami near the military airbase at Homestead. The storm then headed for the Everglades and out to the Gulf of Mexico as new hurricane warnings were announced for the west coast of Florida.

The southern districts of Miami, in particular Kendal, Coral Gables and Coconut Grove were worst affected. Eight people were reported killed, one by a falling tree. In Kendal, roofs were stripped from houses, storm shutters

torn off windows and there were several feet of flood waters. George Ramirez, a Kendal resident, told a local radio station how winds picked up his car in the driveway, flipped it over and planted it

Continued on page 14, col 7

Drought blamed, page 8



West soothes Arab fears on flying ban

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NICOSIA AND JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

TO AVOID delay in President Bush's ultimatum to Baghdad over the "no-fly-zone" in southern Iraq, the West yesterday launched a diplomatic offensive to counter fears in the Arab world that the ban could lead to Iraq's dismemberment into three states.

Officials in Washington insisted that American, British and French troops at the United Nations would today hand Abdul Amir al-Anbani, the Iraqi ambassador, a diplomatic note warning that any of President Saddam Hussein's warplanes caught flying south of the 32nd parallel risked being shot down.

"The ban will come into effect 24 hours after the note is given to the Iraqis," said one Washington-based diplomat. But he acknowledged that some Arab governments were still worried about the danger of Iraq breaking up.

On Sunday Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said that Mr Bush was likely to announce plans to shoot down Iraqi warplanes this week, but said that the announcement could "slip back in time".

A team of US air warfare specialists is in the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh to co-ordinate co-operation between air forces in the area.

Among the problems is the lack of a base for the six British Tornados jets and two mid-air tankers earmarked for the operation.

As Whitehall officials reviewed a list of options understood to include Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait, an RAF spokesman at the Ministry of Defence said: "We have done our part, we are ready. But we have not been told where or when to go." Defence experts said that British bases in Cyprus were too far from the marshes of southern Iraq to serve as more than a staging-post.

Despite reports that Arab governments in the Gulf are seeking a delay, the Pentagon confirmed yesterday that the US-led coalition of the Gulf states, the "coalition of the willing", will figure prominently in the policing of the exclusion zone.

In Kuwait, US Army units are expected to undertake joint exercises this week near the Iraqi border with troops from the emirate, Kuwait is the only Arab nation to have declared open support for the West's plans.

Among those who have rejected the zone is Syria, a vital partner in the 1991 coalition. Continued on page 14, col 5

Estate agents offer to pay buyers' stamp duty

BY RACHEL KELLY
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

ESTATE agents and developers are refusing to accept the end of the stamp-duty holiday despite the official reinstatement last week of the tax paid by buyers on 1 per cent of the value of homes over £30,000.

The August 19 deadline set by the government for the return of stamp duty led to a brief flurry in the market last week as prospective homeowners rushed to complete deals. To try to keep up this momentum, some agents are now advising sellers that it is in their best interests to carry the tax burden by reducing their price by an amount equivalent to the stamp duty. Other agents are taking it on

themselves to pay the tax on behalf of buyers.

Agents Bainslow Eves of Chetmsford, Essex, are typical of many who are getting sellers to lower the prices of their homes by 1 per cent, the amount which would otherwise have to be paid by buyers in stamp duty. Brookswood estate agents of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, also deduct the amount of money from the agreed purchase price that would have been paid in stamp duty by the buyers. On the day of completion the money is forwarded to the solicitors acting for the buyers.

"This covers the cost which the purchaser would normally have to find," Jonathan Mills, sales manager for the firm, said. "We intend this to

be a genuine offer for buyers we feel will start to come out of the woodwork as they realise that it is now that the keenest deals can be struck with sellers who missed the Chancellor's deadline," he added.

The stamp-duty holiday increased activity and brought more buyers into the market, Mr Mills said. "We felt it would be a shame to sit back and watch that ebb away, so we consulted all our vendors and negotiated the scheme." Brookswood's offer will continue till December 31.

Anglia Secure Homes, which builds retirement housing, is prepared to pay the stamp duty itself for anyone buying one of its retirement homes before September 21. Speaking for the firm, Ruth Rivers said:

"Few of our purchasers have mortgages, so stamp duty is their main moving expense. The savings on stamp duty provide an incentive to buy. Virtually every buyer has told us that the stamp-duty holiday was the deciding factor in choosing to move now, and we feel our offer will keep this momentum going."

The National Association of Estate Agents is also continuing to campaign against stamp duty even though the holiday has officially ended. The deadline for its "Stamp out stamp duty" petition has been extended until mid-October. This is as a result of the backing given to the campaign by the British Retail Consortium. The association has set a target of at least a million signatures.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

OUT OF TUNE



Scores like that for *Citizen Kane* are rare. European cinema remains film music's best hope
Life & Times
Page 3

OUT OF FAVOUR



The monarchy's twin roles have become hopelessly confused in the public imagination, says Janet Daley
Life & Times
Page 10

OUT OF ORDER



Terry's mission is to expose government in *Now You Know*, the new novel by Michael Frayn
Life & Times
Page 1

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Cast-offs call tune at rock auctions

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

THE humble woollen tank-top does not normally rate as a collectable, being available for a few pence at the Oxfam shop.

Associations with John Lennon, however, mean that the "patterned burgundy, white, yellow, green and grey" example could make £1,200 during this week's season of pop memorabilia sales in London.

Similarly, contact with Bob Dylan's neck may take the value of a plain white bathrobe to £400.

Such are the prices of fame for collectors thinking of bidding for the thousands of relics and cast-offs coming under the hammer from today. The Hard Rock Cafe will no doubt sweep up some of the more displayable trophies to adorn the walls of various branches, as usual, but most buyers will be private individuals who are obsessed with particular stars and have saved devotedly for the occasion.

Some items are predictably glamorous, such as the red



Feat of showmanship: Jane Pollard of Christie's presents a pair of shoes Elton John gave away to promote a pop single

devil's costume in which Alice Cooper posed on stage more than two decades ago (£1,200), and the cream-studded and bell-bottomed stage suit worn by Elvis Presley in Las Vegas, 1972 (estimated at £12,000 to £16,000) at Phillips. At Christie's, a pair of platform-soled shoes given away by the singer Elton John

as a promotional exercise for his single, "Who Wears These Shoes?" could fetch £500. Sometimes the costumes are prototypes for styles of clothing that subsequently caught on in the high streets. The wet-look two-piece suit worn on stage by Freddie Mercury 13 years ago, for example, may have inspired

the Shell suit, while Madonna's 1985 crucifix pendant (estimated at £3,000 to £3,500) started a rage among teenage girls.

But all too often, the cast-offs of the stars are dowdy, like the tank-top and scarf. The numerous examples of handwriting on offer, in the form of letters or drafts of

famous hit-parade songs, prove that standards of literacy among the nation's youth have been low for some years. A 1980 letter from Eric Clapton to a friend at Sheerness in Kent, for example, has the repeated affection of using the lower case "f" when referring to himself. It is hard to believe that

prices for pop memorabilia have continued to do as well as they have while the market for fine art slumps. Will the amateur video film of Marc Bolan posing in front of a mirror, a lamp stand clutched in his hand like a microphone, hold its estimated value of £500 to £800 in 50 years' time?

British doubts over monetary union echo across Europe

THE agonies endured over the past few days by the European Community's exchange rate mechanism reveal three things: that when the going gets tough, national economy worries rank higher than European integration, and that British doubts about monetary union are increasingly shared across the channel.

The unratified Maastricht treaty set down a timetable towards a single currency which, in theory at least, is irrevocable for all 11 EC states except Britain. M Delors sees this compulsory convergence as the crowning achievement of his career. But when he wrote a three-stage plan for monetary union, no one foresaw the momentous costs of German reunification.

Continental governments keen to show that the ERM is a stable and manageable forerunner to a completely unified single currency are reluctant to admit the system's weakness by agreeing a realignment, which would be

Unity takes a back seat to partisan fears for national economies, George Brock reports

the first for five years. The Spanish, Belgian and Italian governments have begun to spell out to their electorates the high price in lost jobs which they would pay to qualify to join a single currency. Sterling was in the firing line over the weekend because of its relative weakness. But the French franc and the Italian lira may come under threat. If London raises interest rates to hold the pound off the ERM "floor", the Paris daily *Le Monde* reported yesterday, "the franc will then be one of the most exposed currencies".

With the French Maastricht referendum less than a month away, the French government is busy trying to steer the European agenda

away from bleak financial headlines and towards the easier territory of foreign affairs. Ministers hope to exploit France's spellbound fascination with the carnage in Bosnia and the fact that currency crises make boring television.

German politicians are too busy assuaging the particular anxieties of their own voters to be much concerned with the fears in other capitals. The power of the mark is less of an issue than its very survival under the terms of the Maastricht treaty. The strength of public concern over the possible abolition of a currency which has served as a powerful symbol of Germany's post-war stability is forcing government ministers into extraordinary re-interpretations of the treaty.

If the treaty is ratified, automatic uniting of currencies is precisely what the text lays down.

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Trade setback, page 15

KEY DATES FOR NORMAN LAMONT	
AUGUST	26: CBI monthly trends enquiry for August 27: RPI for August
SEPTEMBER	2: UK official reserves figures for August 4-6: Norman Lamont hosts Ecofin meeting in Bath 10: CBI distributive trades survey 11: PSBR for August 12: Retail sales for August 13: Unemployment figures 14: UK balance of payments, 2nd quarter 15: CBI monthly trends enquiry 16: Norman Lamont attends G7 finance ministers meeting, Washington 20-22: He attends IMF meeting, Washington 23: FRENCH REFERENDUM ON MAASTRICHT TREATY 24: Balance of payments current account and overseas, August 25: GDP, 2nd quarter 27-28: Labour Party conference, Blackpool 29: Ecofin meeting 30: New vehicle registration figures for August
OCTOBER	2: UK official reserves figures for September 6-8: Conservative party conference, Brighton 9: RPI for September 10: CBI quarterly financial trends survey 11: Unemployment figures 12: PSBR for September 13: House of Commons to return from summer recess 14: CBI distributive trades survey 15: Ecofin meeting 22: Balance of payments current account and overseas, September 27: CBI industrial trends survey End of month: Norman Lamont delivers Mansion House speech
NOVEMBER	Norman Lamont's autumn statement 3: UK official reserves figures for October 12: Unemployment figures 13: RPI for October 14: CBI regional trends survey, last quarter 15: PSBR for October 16: CBI distributive trades survey 22: Balance of payments current account and overseas, October 27: CBI industrial trends survey
DECEMBER	2: UK official reserves figures for November 11-12: EC heads of government meeting, Edinburgh 11: RPI for November 14: Ecofin meeting 15: CBI distributive trades survey 16: PSBR for November 17: Unemployment figures 18: CBI industrial trends survey 22: Balance of payments current account and overseas, November

Major has date with destiny

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major's date with economic destiny will be September 20. On that day, the French people give their verdict on the Maastricht treaty. If they reject the plan for economic and political union, sterling's present travails will pale into insignificance alongside the turmoil that will be unleashed in the currency markets.

A "no" vote in the French referendum would kill off the treaty. More importantly, it would cast a long shadow over the European exchange rate mechanism, the lynchpin of the government's anti-inflationary economic policy. Dealers fearful of an ERM collapse and a slump in the value of the pound would almost certainly take refuge in the German mark, putting intense pressure on sterling. Even if he escapes the current

hiatus, Mr Major could find himself forced to jack up interest rates a few days before the Conservative party conference.

Alternatively, the combination of a "yes" vote and an easing of inflationary pressures in Germany could calm the markets and pave the way to cheaper loans and mortgages at home. Yesterday, Downing Street sources were playing down the chances of a French veto. But with the opinion polls suggesting that the "no" lobby is gaining ground in France, Mr Major will be bracing himself for panicky trading in the days immediately preceding the referendum.

With pressure growing for a general realignment of ERM currencies against the mark, next month's meeting of European Community fi-

nance ministers under the presidency of Norman Lamont will be closely watched. Any hint of such a move would send the markets into a tailspin.

Better news should come with the publication of the August inflation figures on September 11. Less encouraging will be the August unemployment figures, which are likely to show the 2.75 million jobless total edging up towards three million.

The economic spotlight is currently on the pound and the threat of higher interest rates. But the markets' attention could switch to the outlook for public spending and borrowing as November's autumn statement approaches. If the monthly PSBR figures point to a substantial overshoot, sterling could again come under pressure.

Ashdown to face critical test of realignment policy

PADDY Ashdown's plans for a realignment of the left of British politics face a critical test at next month's annual Liberal Democrat conference (Nicholas Wood writes):

Party activists are poised to ask some searching questions of Mr Ashdown, who floated the idea in the wake of his party's poor election showing. The Liberal Democrat leader is likely to come under fire from party loyalists dismayed by his speech in Chard, Somerset in May, which was widely interpreted as an opening shot in an attempt to forge an electoral pact with Labour. Criticism will be fuelled by rank and file disappointment at the depressing outcome on April 9, when the centre party suffered a net loss of three seats and saw its share of the vote fall from 23 per cent in 1987 to 18 per cent.

Mr Ashdown will counter his critics by reiterating that

at no time has he proposed a formal pact with Labour. Instead, he will renew his call for a new policy forum open to all wishing to see a "viable alternative" to Conservatism.

Yesterday, as the party published its agenda for the five-day conference opening in Harrogate on September 13, Mr Ashdown's aides emphasised the limited nature of his objectives. "We want to initiate a fundamental policy discussion, not just for us but as part of a wider debate that he was talking about in Chard," one source said.

Party leaders have delayed declaring their hand on party strategy until after a four-hour consultative session on the opening day of the conference. The aim will be to minimise conflict by framing a resolution reflecting a broad cross-section of party thinking. It will be debated three days later.

Mr Ashdown believes that fear of Labour dragged down the Liberal Democrat vote on polling day. He sees the building of a centre-left consensus on key policy areas such as tax and spending as a way of breaking the Conservative stranglehold on Westminster.

Mr Ashdown wants the conference to adopt a forward-looking approach and not to become an inquest into the election setback. A section of the annual report to conference from the federal executive will be the only formal assessment of what went wrong on polling day.

Degree results

Degree results from Glasgow, Leicester, Surrey and Thames Valley universities are published today.

Life & Times, pages 7, 8

NEWS IN BRIEF

Enquiry starts after 'at-risk' children die

An enquiry was launched into the role of social services yesterday after two children were found strangled in their beds. Jason Harry, six, and his five-year-old sister Natalia were discovered dead on Saturday at their home in Tottenham, north London.

Announcing the enquiry, Ian Willmore, deputy leader of Haringey council, said that the children had been put on the social services "at-risk" register on June 11, ten weeks before their death. He disclosed that the family had been known to social services for a number of years and a social worker had been allocated to their case. The children's 23-year-old mother, who walked into a police station on Saturday, is being questioned by detectives.

Mr Willmore said yesterday: "I have ordered a full enquiry into this tragic case. I believe it is of the utmost importance to review this case to ensure that children in Haringey are safeguarded as far as humanly possible." The composition of the enquiry will be decided on Friday at a meeting of the area child protection committee made up of representatives of the local health authority, police and social services.

£9,000 sex bias award

A secretary sacked from her £20,000 job with a Japanese bank after taking time off to have a hysterectomy won £9,000 at an industrial tribunal in Chelsea, west London yesterday. Bridget Reynolds, 47, personal assistant to the general manager, of Stanmore, northwest London, was sent chocolates as she recovered — and a note saying that she was fired. A bank official said that the City-based Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corporation felt that six weeks was too long to convalesce and that she would never be well. An industrial tribunal upheld the claim of Mrs Reynolds that she was sexually discriminated against at an earlier hearing and she returned yesterday to have the amount of compensation settled. The bank said it would appeal against the tribunal's decision.

Briton found stabbed

Spanish police were yesterday investigating the murder of a British woman aged 20 who was found stabbed to death on Sunday night in her Costa Blanca apartment. Her four-month-old daughter was crying near by. Unmarried Kay Gannon was found by her Spanish boyfriend, Manuel "Manolo" Farrona, 26, at their flat in the Apollo 3 apartment building in Calpe. Police said he found Miss Gannon slumped over the bath with a knife in her back. She had been stabbed several times in the neck. Last night Sr Farrona was still being questioned by the civil guard murder squad in Calpe, an officer said. His parents, Manuel and Vicenta Farrona, own the Bar Jaen in Santa Maria Street, opposite the murdered girl's apartment. The couple both worked in the bar.

Crash victims named

Police yesterday named the four men who died when their light aircraft crashed into a mountain on the way to a sporting shoot on the Isle of Mull. They were Robert Watts, of Ribchester, owner of the aircraft and a qualified pilot; Trevor Balmforth, 60, company director, of Citherone, John Greenwood, 46, builder and qualified pilot of Slaiddun, and Ian Astley Shaw, 53, a fishmonger, of Waddington, all Lancashire. The accident was discovered after an hotelier on Mull telephoned one of the men's homes to ask why they had not arrived. Their single-engine Socata TB20 Trinidad crashed on Glas Bheinn on the island of Jura, inner Hebrides, after flying from Blackpool on Saturday. Police and accident investigators were travelling to the site and efforts were being made to recover the bodies.

Drink-driver jailed

A man branded Britain's worst motorist was jailed for six months yesterday for his twelfth drink-driving conviction in ten years and 34th offence of driving while disqualified. Jeremy Smith, 29, of Beaumont Leys, Leicester, was already serving a 30-year driving-ban when he reversed into another car after drinking four pints of lager. Leicester magistrates were told. Oliver D'Sa, for the defence, said: "Smith, because of his record, has to be Britain's most wretched driver." He was jailed for six months for driving while disqualified, with another six months to run concurrently for driving with excess alcohol. Magistrates imposed no separate penalty for driving with no insurance, but issued a further three-year driving ban to run concurrently with the existing 30-year ban.

Chess lead shared

After three rounds of England's strongest open chess tournament, the Lloyds Masters event, at the Cumberland Hotel, London, the five players sharing the lead are Frans Nijboer, of The Netherlands; Ilya Gurevich, US; Niaz Murshed, Bangladesh; and Matthew Sadler and Andrew Hon, Britain. All have three matches from a possible three. Meanwhile, in the man versus machine Silicon Graphics world draughts championship at London's Park Lane Hotel, games 21 and 22 yesterday ended in draws after much hard play. The scores are still neck and neck with two wins each to Dr Marion Tinsley, the human world champion from Florida, and the Chinook computer program, his challenger from Canada. There have been 18 draws so far.

Two die in M40 crash



Two lorry drivers died yesterday in a fireball collision on the M40 in Warwickshire. The head-on accident happened when a tyre on a southbound heavy goods vehicle burst and the lorry crashed through the central reservation. It clipped the rear of a tanker and then crashed into a second heavy goods vehicle. The two lorries erupted in flames. Witnesses had seen the driver vainly trying to control his vehicle after the blow-out. The names of the dead men, one from the North-East, the other from the Northampton area, will not be released until after a formal identification by relatives this morning. Two cars heading north were superficially damaged and one passenger required treatment. The crash closed the motorway for several hours between junctions 15 and 16, near Warwick, as commuters drove to work.

Public's views tapped

Welsh Water is to spend £1 million to discover what its three million consumers think of the company's charges and big investment programme, John Elfed Jones, the chairman, said. "He who pays the piper should call the tune. Hopefully our consultation with our customers will affect the price structure of the services we provide." Last year the company put £189 million, £56 million more than its annual profit, into water quality and cleaning beaches. More than £500,000 is being spent each day, largely due to demands for improvements by European and UK legislators. "It is important that our customers have a real opportunity to express their say in this debate on getting the balance between demands for improved services and the burden of increasing charges," Mr Jones added.

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7 AB	3 BJ	3 DEC	7 GAM	9 MAY	2 MCA	10 OUT	8 TAD
ANS 6	20 BLS	1 ODW	7 GAM	9 MAY	2 MCA	10 OUT	8 TAD
2 ABW	50 BK	6 DEN	5 GAV	7 MAY	7 MAY	7 MAY	7 MAY
4 ACM	5 BL	5 DEN	5 GAV	7 MAY	7 MAY	7 MAY	7 MAY
7 ACS	5 BM	3 DEN	5 GAV	7 MAY	7 MAY	7 MAY	7 MAY
2 ACT	2 BMS	5 DJ	20 GC	14 NOV	8 RJ	3 TAB	3 TAB
1 ADB	6 BO	3 DJ	3 DO	10 NOV	10 NOV	10 NOV	10 NOV
40S 22	8 BS	1 ODW	7 GAM	9 MAY	2 MCA	10 OUT	8 TAD
20 AF	8 BL	6 DEN	5 GAV	7 MAY	7 MAY	7 MAY	7 MAY
1 AAG	9 BS	3 DMG	5 GAV	7 MAY	7 MAY	7 MAY	7 MAY
50 AJ	5 BW	6 DR	5 GAV	7 MAY	7 MAY	7 MAY	7 MAY
10 AM	14 BOB	9 DRS	6 GM 777	7 MAY	7 MAY	7 MAY	7 MAY
2 AJS	5 C	11 GDS	9 HNS	10 JF	10 JF	10 JF	10 JF
6 AK	4 OD	8 DU	7 GES	11 HEN	9 JR	5 JR	5 JR
AGR 1L	40 CAP	7 DU	4 GET	8 J	8 JR	5 JR	5 JR
22 AL	40S 8	1 LAD	20 GF	22 JA	4 JB	2 LEM	2 LEM
ALL 1X	22 CB	30 BS	6 G	10 JAG	5 JT	12 LES	7 MEG
ALS 3	22 CB	30 BS	6 G	10 JAG	5 JT	12 LES	7 MEG
1 AM	5 CC	9 EDO	30 GA	7 JAM	10 JAL	699 LP	6 RJ
8 AN	8 CCM	6 DRS	6 GJR	22 JAN	3300 KA	2 LCH	7 MEG
20 ANA	22 CB	4 EE	3 GL	JAB 100	KAS 22	1 LH	4 MEG
AND 1S	11 GDS	8 EF	7 GM	11 JAB	16 RAT	6 EM	2 MEG
4 AND	1000 CF	10 EG	5 GH	4 JAW	18 HAY	LOS 2	2 MEG
ANS 6	11 CG	50 EJ	123 DO	6 JAY	33 KE	10 LOW	4 MEG
20 ANT	8 G	4 EM	9 G	8 JED	7 LUP	9 MEG	7 LUP
APK 1N	12 CH	ENR 1E	6 PS	3 JC	22 KEN	6 LR	40 MJ
3 AS	4 CJ	10 ER	10 GR	92 JCS	8 KER	6 LR	40 MJ
7 ASB	6 CEM	3 GVI	20 KES	20 LUV	6 M	8 RAJ	10 M
4 ASB	4 CL	40 ES	20 OS	80 JCS	3 NG	6 LR	40 MJ
2 ASB	20 CM	FAS 10	21 GT	8 G	6 GGS	11 LYN	10 MR
12 B	8 CP	6 FC	16 GTS	10 JOW	111 KX	12 MAC	3 NG
7 BA	5 CS	5 FEB	25 GW	40 JE	888 KL	100 MAC	14 MJM
4 BAP	3 CT	50 FF	61 GSY	21 GED	12 NOK	9 MAD	14 MJM
8 BS 1	10 CW	12 FJ	61 GDN	99 JEF	14 NS	20 MAG	7 NG
4 BC	10 DA	44 FL	4 HNM	JEN 20	25 KT	9 MAJ	3 NAM
6 BD	04S 11	FOR 1S	HAS 1H	100 JEN	K1 LTS	7 MAT	1 RUC
1 BE	7 DAV	16 FR	10 HAV	40 JES	K1 LTY	20 MAM	25 WED
4 BEE	100 OB	25 FT	10 HAV	200 JET	K1 RNS	MAS 9	10 MAT
7 BSN	10 DSW	22 JW	6 HC	7 JF	K1 RCV	10 MAT	2 NEW
7 BES	25 DC	PVT 1E	25 HO	JOM 6	K1 RST	21 MAX	10 NM

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Video film role models used to promote unpopular but healthy meals

Scientists find ways to help children beat food fears

BY NICK NUTTALL

THE notoriously fussy eating habits of infants and children can be broken overnight through the use of video films showing role models eating traditionally loathed dishes such as broccoli, spinach and fruits, research shows.

The findings, part of a long-term study into the nation's diet being carried out by the Economic and Social Research Council, challenge the popular view that children's loathing for certain healthy foods is deeply ingrained. They also show that parents who insist on their offspring eating certain foods may be doing more damage than good.

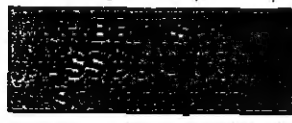
The research, details of which were disclosed at the British Association for the Advancement of Science meeting taking place in Southampton this week, is being undertaken by a team led by Fergus Lowe, professor of psychology at the University of Wales, in Bangor.

Professor Lowe said yesterday that the preliminary results had been astonishing. "The majority of the children changed their behaviour overnight," he said.

Children aged about six were filmed on video at home by their parents to establish foods which they strongly disliked. Video films were then made of a group of other children called the Food Dudes, who are "cool and sophisticated".

Their mission in life is to promote healthy eating. They are in battle against the forces of evil led by General Junk and the Junk Junta," Professor Lowe said.

The Food Dudes, who are children of about the same age or slightly older than those being studied, are shown eating a particular food for which the child has



shown a strong dislike. The Food Dudes also extol the virtues of the dish and how good it tastes.

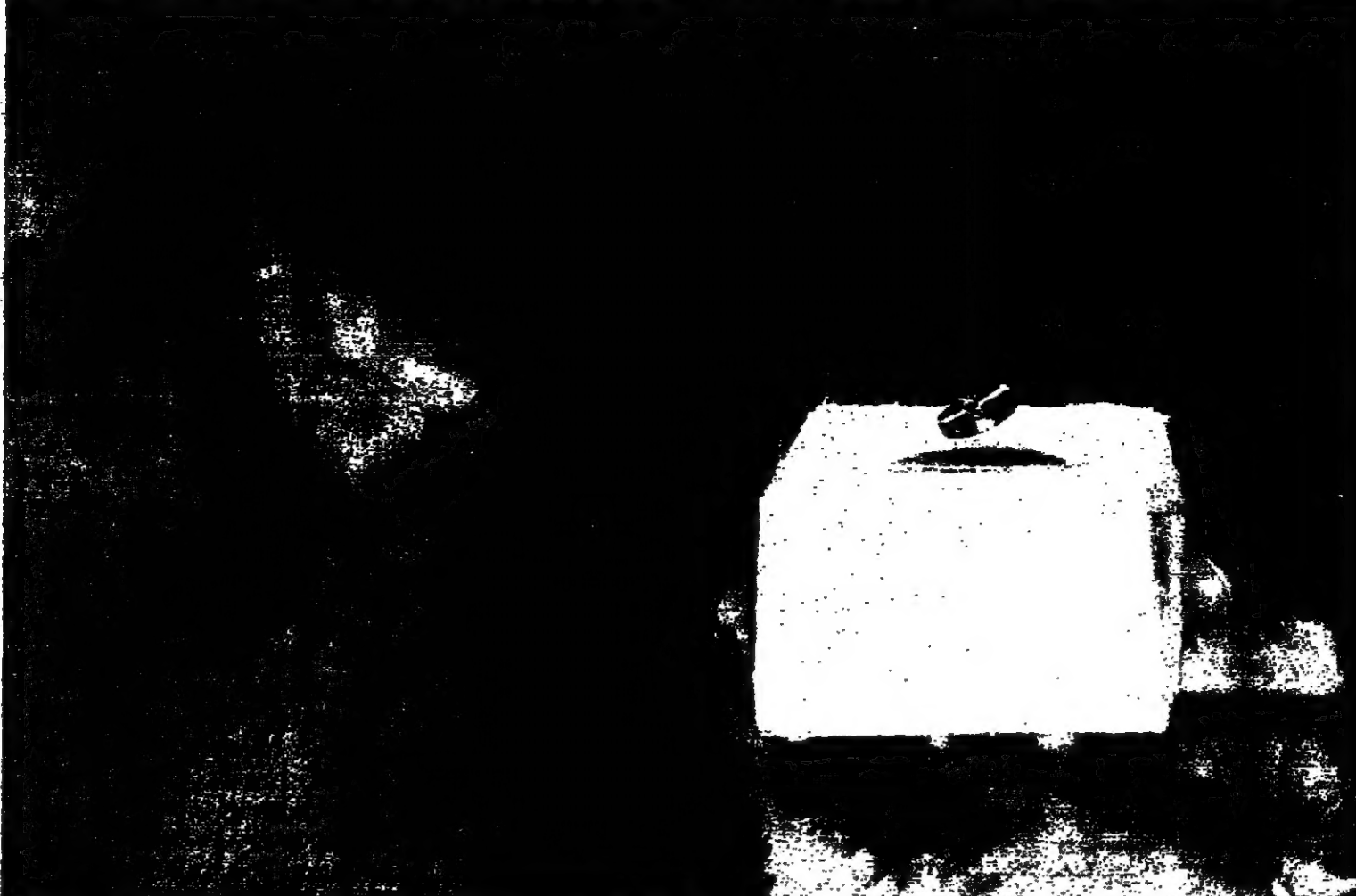
Professor Lowe said the majority of children not only began eating food they had consistently refused but also began saying how much they enjoyed it. The researchers plan to test the video technique on several hundred children aged two to ten.

If the preliminary findings are confirmed by these in-depth studies, they could significantly affect the nation's long-term health, the researchers say. Professor Lowe says previous government initiatives intended to improve the nation's eating habits and health have had little effect. Altering eating habits in children was the key to achieving serious change in adulthood, he said.

The team will also try to find out whether childhood dislikes of healthy foods can be avoided altogether. Infants aged two will be fed guava and artichokes and compared with infants eating conventional diets.

Yesterday the council announced details of other research programmes which are part of the £1.4 million budget which will continue until 1996. These include research at Glasgow University which is analysing the effects of media food scares on the nation's diet and work at St George's Hospital Medical School, London, where researchers are attempting to unravel the links between stress and diet.

BBC winning page 14
Leading article, page 11



No strings attached: Professor Ralph Scurlock, director of the institute of cryogenics at the University of Southampton, demonstrates an example of magnetic levitation at the British Association for the Advancement of Science's annual conference yesterday.

Showing how a ceramic superconductor disc coated with liquid nitrogen could be made to hover motionless over a magnet, he said huge superconducting coils

buried in tunnels below the ground may soon be used to store large amounts of electricity. A coil one kilometre in diameter and buried in a tunnel one kilometre underground could store six hours of output from a

1,000 megawatt power station, he said. By the year 2000, the new high-temperature superconductors would be starting to have a profound effect in many applications, the professor suggested.

Cash shortage thwarts dolphin safety device

Research money is needed to save the lives of thousands of dolphins, reports Nick Nuttall

This Kikien of the Institute of Zoology in London announced findings from an environmental department funded study into dolphin, porpoise and pilot whale strandings around the British coast. The study indicates that of 55 dead animals examined, around a third had probably died from fishermen's nets rather than from pollution.

His study supports findings by the team covering the sharp rise in dead animals washed up on beaches in Cornwall and Devon earlier this year. Of the 38 carcasses examined, direct evidence of encounters with nets was found in 18 cases.

Dr Peter Evans of Oxford University told the conference that other changes in marine mammals had been recently observed. Sightings of striped dolphins, normally found in the warmer waters of the Mediterranean, were being made further north off Scotland's west coast.

He said that might possibly be linked with climatic changes, including alterations in the Gulf stream.

Strandings of striped dolphins on the British coast had also increased, he said.

Plans were also unveiled yesterday for what is believed to be Europe's first dolphin sanctuary which, according to Giuseppe Nottabartolo di Sciarra of the Tethys Research Institute in Milan, is urgently needed to protect the dolphins of the Mediterranean.

Some 1,000 fishing boats operate in the Mediterranean and although the law forbids nets longer than 2.5 kilometres, it is not enforced, with nets of 12-15km being deployed, he said. The proposal would cover a 50,000 sq km triangle stretching from Toulon and Genoa to an apex south of Corsica.

Organic farmers 'risking penury'

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

ORGANIC farming appears to be a virtuous way of going broke, to judge from figures given to the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Michael Murphy of the Department of Land Economics at Cambridge University told a debate organised by the CIBA Foundation that only a "very plucky entrepreneur" would chance his arm in organic farming. A survey of Britain's 400 wholly organic farms had revealed an average income of only £1,000 a year.

"Some are earning up to £8,000 a year but others are losing £5,000," Mr Murphy said. The incomes of organic farmers were much lower than those of conventional ones, because loss of output, estimated by the Cambridge team at 50 per cent, could not be made up by premium prices.

Mr Murphy was commenting on the results of a study commissioned by the agriculture ministry and published earlier this year. He said that the cost to the nation if all farmers went organic would be enormous — between £20 billion and £40 billion a year in the form of increased import bills, lost income and other costs. If only a fifth of farmers followed the organic route, the costs would be four to eight billion pounds a year. At present, fewer than 1 per cent of Britain's farmers are organic.

Mr Murphy's pessimistic analysis did not carry the day unchallenged. Christopher Stiles, a researcher at Elm Farm Research Centre in Newbury, Berkshire, said that the Cambridge data had been used to make comparisons that should not be made. An organic farm could not be judged on a single year's output. Over several years, organic farms might show greater stability of income than conventional ones, he said.

Britons rush to sample good life down under

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

IF YOU are in your late twenties, have a degree in science and at least six years' employment in a related area, then, with 26 points, you are just the type of quality migrant wanted by New Zealand.

Such is the atmosphere of economic gloom in John Major's United Kingdom that a pilot project in the summer of 1991, the summer of starting afresh in New Zealand produced four times as many applicants as the total number for 1991.

While the majority of would-be migrants tempted to travel 12,000 miles down under to begin life anew were from the UK, people from as far afield as Bosnia, Nigeria, the United States, Finland and Germany were among the 4,500 applicants.

Having printed only 1,400 information packs, staff at the New Zealand Immigration service in central London were

Regional breakdown showing the number of responses to New Zealand invitation

North of England	580
Midlands	458
East Angles	200
South West England	383
South East England	472
London	441
Wales	104
Scotland	245
Northern Ireland	51
Rest of Britain	22
Total	3,886

Overwhelmed by the response to three adverts, including one in *The Times*, published last month.

Bruce Burrows, the chief migration officer, said: "We are now frantically scrambling around trying to cope with the demand. We were told that summer was the worst time to advertise for migrants, as many people are away. We know, if we do it in December, we might get 7,000 applicants."

Last month's adverts are part of a return to New Zealand's immigration laws aimed at attracting quality migrants who will assist in the long-term economic development of the country and, it is hoped, increase the country's 3.4 million population by 25,000. Instead of an immigration policy based on recruiting people for priority occupations, the government has switched to a strategy designed to attract well-qualified migrants who no longer must have a guaranteed job.

But the grass might not be that greener on the other side of the world. New Zealand has an unemployment rate of 10.5 per cent, rates of up to 25 per cent in unemployment benefit and widows and sickness payments, no universal free hospital care and pensioners subject to income testing.

TRANSCRIPTS of an alleged intimate telephone call between the Princess of Wales and an unnamed man, published in some newspapers yesterday, have rung warning bells among the many thousands who use mobile telephones.

The warbling curse of restaurants, racecourses and other places where the conduct of business is regarded by many as improper, has been shown to be thoroughly insecure.

The offending conversation, made most of by those tabloids which lost last week's race to publish photographs of the Duchess of York on holiday with her financial adviser, is said to have taken place between the Princess, staying at Sandringham on New Year's

Even 1989, and a man called James who had a mobile telephone. Voice experts in America, where the transcript was first issued, claim that the woman on the line is definitely the Princess, but British electronics experts who heard parts of the tape dismissed it as a fraud.

The recording has highlighted how easy it is to listen to conversations on a mobile telephone. The practice is, however, illegal, as the Home Office pointed out yesterday, because mobiles are part of the public telephone network.

David Benn, an electronics expert who runs a London security firm, said that all that was required was a scanner, a component freely available from any shop supplying amateur radio enthusiasts. A scanner is effectively a radio tuner which searches the airwaves for any transmissions, and locks on to them. It can pick up signals from mobile telephones in the vicinity provided they are quite close and stationary. "Picking up a conversation from a moving car is much more difficult," Mr Benn said.

Leukaemia drug trial success

BY ALISON ROBERTS

A MAJOR advance in the treatment of a rare form of leukaemia was announced yesterday at a conference in London. Doctors at the Institute of Cancer Research at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London said the lives of the 100 people who contract "hairy cell" leukaemia every year in Britain would be "completely transformed".

The results of a five-year trial of the drug deoxycoformycin (DCF) were presented to the twenty-fourth Congress of the International Society of Haematology. Professor Daniel Catovsky, head of the institute, said: "The results have been quite staggering. We treated 110 patients with DCF and four years after treatment stopped over 80 per cent of those involved are still free of symptoms of the disease and require no further chemotherapy. When one considers that only a few years ago the disease was almost inevitably fatal, this is a remarkable breakthrough."

Royal tapes claim rings the alarm for mobile phone users

BY ALAN HAMILTON

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is effectively a radio tuner which searches the airwaves for any transmissions, and locks on to them. It can pick up signals from mobile telephones in the vicinity provided they are quite close and stationary. "Picking up a conversation from a moving car is much more difficult," Mr Benn said.

Buckingham Palace confirmed last night that it had listened to part of the recording but a spokesman said it had not been possible to say whether it was genuine. Scotland Yard said last night that it had not been asked to investigate the origin of the tapes.

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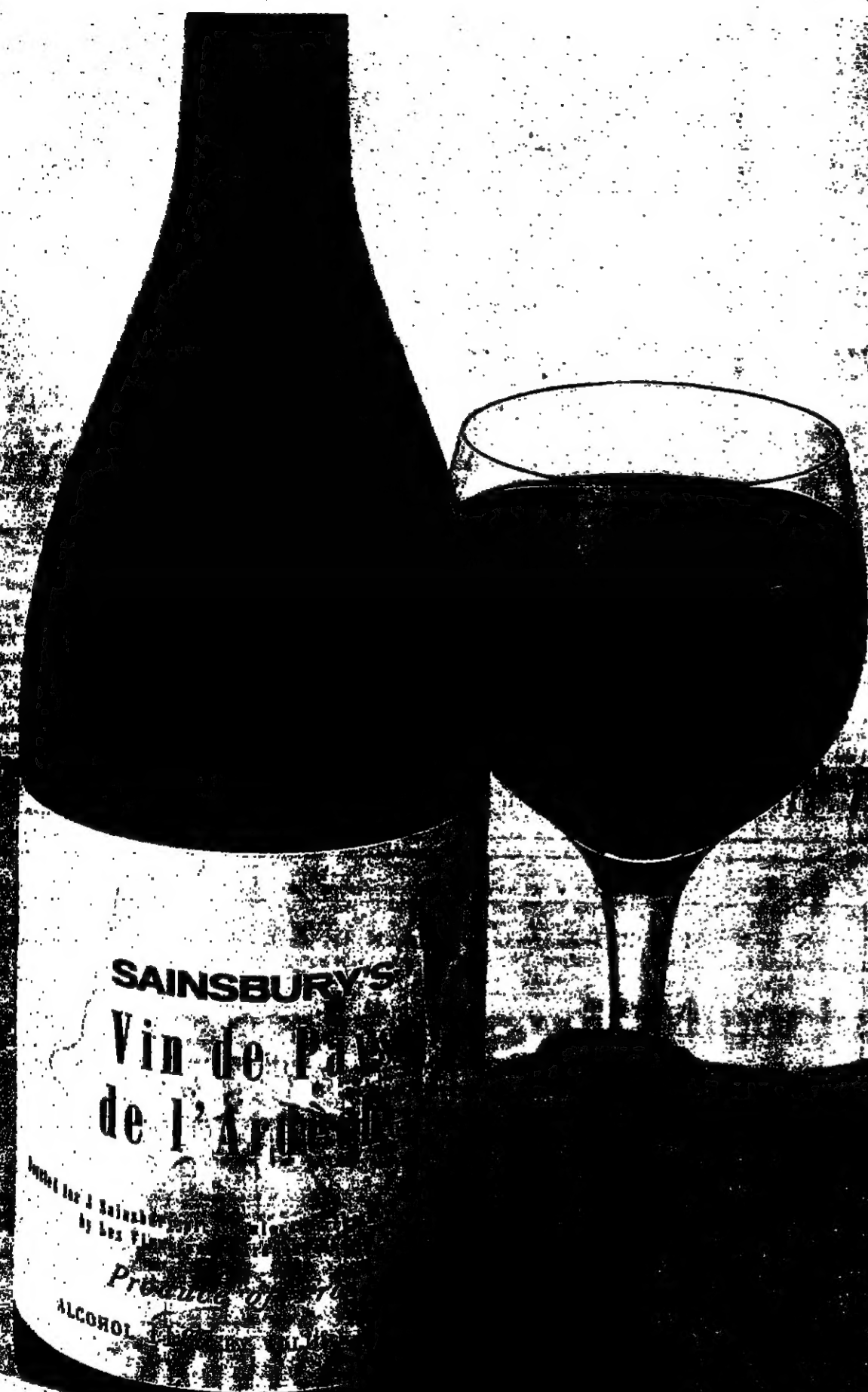
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Bank demanded savings at Le Manoir

Hotel blames job cuts on financial troubles

By Robin Young

A FINANCIAL disaster threatened a leading country house hotel owned by Raymond Blanc when he suffered a near-fatal stroke last year and was blamed yesterday for the abrupt dismissal of the hotel's sales and marketing manager.

Lois Rodway, the sales manager of Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons, claimed unfair dismissal at an industrial tribunal in Reading, Berkshire, on the grounds that there had been no proper consultation and no offer of alternative employment within the organisation. Miss Rodway had worked at Le Manoir, at Great Milton in Oxfordshire, since 1987.

The hotel's managing director, Nicholas Dickinson, told the tribunal that the establishment was already facing a financial disaster when M. Blanc suffered a stroke last September. He said that the business had been hit by the recession and the bank was applying pressure over the overdraft.

Miss Rodway, from Banbury, Oxfordshire, said Mr Dickinson had called her into his office one day last October and dismissed her on the spot.

from her £13,860-a-year job as sales and marketing manager. She told the tribunal: "He said he had some bad news for me and that my position was to be made redundant."

"He told me that straight away. I was very shocked but I bit my lip and did not want to cry and show him I was upset."

Miss Rodway said Mr Dickinson told her that other staff, including the floristry manager and a part-time secretary, were also losing their jobs. He then offered her a deal in which she could avoid paying two months' tax on her redundancy payment if she signed a new employment contract.

She said: "He explained that my three months' pay in lieu of notice would be taxed, but if I signed a new one-month contract, then he could pay me the extra two months free of tax." She signed the new contract and received her full pay-off a few days later, but told the tribunal: "I was totally confused at being offered a contract of employment when I was being dismissed."

Mr Dickinson told the tribunal: "The success of the business was due almost exclusively to M. Blanc's involvement and the people we were able to attract as a result. His presence is usually the highlight of a guest's visit. They want to meet him and shake his hand."

"He suffered a stroke and was away from the business for a considerable time, something in the order of two months. It was widely publicised in the press, and it was negative press in that it added to the problems."

"It was financially disastrous, coupled with the recession and people reading about

M. Blanc's illness. People assumed Le Manoir was something different. He was no more as far as they were concerned, and we had become just another hotel."

"Our bankers were also aware of M. Blanc's importance to the business and his absence caused them to be more interested in our performance and overdraft than they normally were."

Mr Dickinson said that a year earlier the hotel had tried to cut overheads after pressure from the bank by reducing the number of operational staff, such as waiters. He said they were forced to re-engage waiters after customer complaints, but when M. Blanc fell ill and more cuts were needed it was decided the axe should fall on the administration side.

Le Manoir has two stars in the Michelin guide and has been The Times Restaurant of the Year. Suites at the hotel cost up to £375 a night.

The tribunal reserved its judgment.



Painful wait: Mrs Ride and her son William. "Saddam can't use Paul as a shield"

Jailed man's wife in plea to Saddam

By Michael Horsnell

JULIE Ride, wife of the Briton jailed for seven years by an Iraqi court for entering the country illegally, knelt beside the sleeping figure of their son, 17-month-old William, yesterday and sent a message to President Saddam Hussein.

"This little chap can't go through life without his dad. They are playmates, not like daddy and son at all. They love each other very much."

Paul Ride, 33, a catering manager, who had been working in Kuwait since June last year, disappeared on June 28 during a visit to business contacts about 20 minutes drive from Kuwait City. The couple, from Walthamstow, east London, have not seen each other since Easter, when he returned to England.

Mrs Ride, 31, said: "Just leave him alone and let him go. Saddam doesn't stand to gain anything by holding a Briton. It's not like before when he held huge numbers of British and American hostages. He can't use Paul as a shield. It's sheer nonsense to

suggest he was spying." She also had a message for her husband. "I love him... as long as he knows that he is loved and being thought about. We will not let him sit there for seven years. We are trying our best to get him out before that, or as quickly as possible, and we will see him soon with any luck."

Later the Foreign Office said it was hoping Russian diplomats representing British interests in Baghdad would be allowed to visit him in prison this week and was remaining in close touch with the International Red Cross which located him over a week ago.

A spokesman said: "The Russians have no right to go and see him and it depends on the good will of the Iraqis."

Mr Ride was one of Taylor International's team working in Kuwait in support of the firefighting effort, which has continued since the invasion by the Iraqis who set most of the emirate's oil wells ablaze. The supervisor of a catering project for 4,500 firefighters, he is being held in the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad.



Blanc's presence is critical to business

Court backs hearing on County Hall

THE High Court yesterday gave a Japanese group permission to challenge a government decision that allowed the London School of Economics extra time to bid for County Hall.

Shirayama, a Japanese hotel consortium, wants to turn the prime site fronting the Thames into a 600-bedroom hotel, conference and leisure complex.

Mr Justice Otton gave permission for a judicial review. The consortium accuses Michael Howard, the environment secretary, of unlawfully using his powers for an improper purpose and of showing partiality towards the school.

The judge ruled that there was an "arguable case" which should be heard quickly. The full hearing is expected to take place next month.

In March, Shirayama agreed to buy the Riverside Building, one of five in the County Hall site, from the London Residuary Body, set up to dispose of the disused GLC's assets, for £50 million and made a down-payment of £3 million. Last month, Mr Howard issued a directive to the body under the 1985 Local Government Act not to take any steps in relation to the sale of the complex without first obtaining his consent.

The LSE offered £55 million for the entire site at the end of last month. The body said the bid should be rejected in favour of the Japanese offer.

Scots owe £500m on poll tax

By Nicholas Watt

MORE than £500 million remains unpaid in Scottish poll tax bills dating back three years, a report says.

By the end of last month local authorities were still chasing £514 million in unpaid bills, which represents 18.4 per cent of the sum that should have been collected, the study says. More than a fifth of the outstanding sum, £116 million, is owed from the year the tax was introduced in Scotland in 1989. Strathclyde and Lothian have the poorest levels of payment where £285m and £115m are owed respectively for the last three years.

Liz Manson, of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, which published the report yesterday, said: "Scottish authorities now budget for a non-payment rate of ten per cent. This is an amazing figure compared with the less than half of one per cent under the old rates system."

In the current financial year only 21 per cent, or £787 million, of bills had been collected by the end of last month. The convention estimated that by July 33 per cent of the tax should have been collected.

Charles Gray, president of the convention, said yesterday that the legacy of non-payment would jeopardise the success of the council tax unless the government acknowledged the problem.

Union dispute mars ballet's first night

By Simon Tapp, Arts Correspondent

LONDON City Ballet may lose the opening of its new season next month because of a possible musicians' strike over the dismissal of three orchestra members.

The company, which almost closed last year in a funding dispute with the Arts Council, is due to open on September 14, but the 19-strong orchestra is being halted by the Musicians' Union on whether to strike. In June, the company wrote to three musicians to say their contracts would not be renewed. Management sent new contracts to the other players without a union agreement being signed.

The union wants the three reinstated. They include

Paul Allen, the orchestra's union representative. He said he believed the true reason for his sacking was that he had criticised Christopher Nicholls, the company's musical director.

"I am very hurt," said Mr Allen, who is also lead clarinetist with the English National Ballet. "We were given no reason for our sacking at first, then we were told it was because of our playing standards. You don't survive as a freelance orchestral player in London for 20 years if your playing standards are no good."

A spokeswoman for the ballet company would not discuss why their contracts were not being renewed.

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Tom Farmer
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Protesters combine to block proposals for local bail hostels

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for bail hostels across England and Wales to house more than 1,000 people on remand are being obstructed by local communities fearful of having alleged criminals living near by.

The hostels are a key part of the government's strategy of diverting alleged offenders from overcrowded prisons, but protesters have forced some local probation services to abandon schemes to open bail hostels. Other opponents are infuriated by a planning regulation that allows hotels to be converted into hostels without needing planning permission.

In Stockport, the local council and residents found themselves powerless to halt the conversion of a private hotel into a bail hostel for 22 men aged between 17 and 25. In spite of allegations by council officials that the Greater Manchester probation service used a front company to conceal its involvement in the project, Duncan Thomas, the court-

cil's director of administration, said considerable efforts had been made to conceal the purpose of an application to carry out alterations to the hotel.

He accused the probation service of acting in an "underhand and deceitful manner" and said the local authority had been "misled" into believing conversion work was for the continued use of the premises as a hotel. "The truth was not discovered until after the planning permission had been granted. The premises were in fact purchased by the probation service," he said.

The Greater Manchester probation service refused to comment on the allegations but said it intended to open the hostel. A statement from the council said it was opposed to the principle that hotels could be converted to probation/bail hostels without any planning control or consultation with the public and would continue to press for the law to be changed.

Elsewhere, local residents have been more successful in forcing the probation service to drop plans for bail hostels. In Chelmsford, Essex, protests have, on three occasions, thwarted efforts to develop a hostel in the town. The probation service had wanted to build one in a suburb near private homes, then looked at a site near a private housing estate and finally planned to convert an hotel into a hostel.

Simon Burns, the Conservative MP for Chelmsford, said his constituents' success had made the probation service look at other towns to site hostels. He said: "People get very emotional about these kind of hostels, probably for the wrong reasons, but it does make them fearful about what might happen. There has to be much better consultation with

the public and much greater sensitivity in the choice of places to site hostels."

In Shrewsbury, Shropshire, a proposal for a 27-bed unit was abandoned when families in the Belle Vue area raised more than £200,000 to buy the site. In York, a plan to convert Linton Lodge, an old people's home, into a 22-bed bail hostel were dropped after a public outcry. An earlier application to create a hostel in the Huntingdon area in the north of the city was rejected by Ryedale District Council. In the Byker district of Newcastle upon Tyne, women occupied a proposed hostel site and after getting 4,000 signatures on a petition the local probation committee dropped the idea.

Residents of Bramley, Surrey, protested on Saturday over a plan to open a 42-bed hostel, the biggest in Britain. The villagers were unable to stop the conversion of a disused county council children's home into the hostel, in spite of protests to the Home Office and a 2,700-name petition to 10 Downing Street.

Maurice Byham, chairman of the action committee fighting the hostel, said the village was totally unsuited for a large bail hostel. "This is a small village of 3,500 people. There are not the facilities for young men aged between 17 and 24. They should build it in an area where there is more entertainment and opportunities for the hostel residents to find work," he said.

The Home Office is planning to provide an additional 1,100 places in bail hostels by April 1995, but leaves local probation committees to decide on potential sites. It urges the committees to hold talks with the public to combat their fears.



Playing ball: Lord Strathclyde at yesterday's launch of a campaign to protect unused land from encroachment by developers

Minister backs defenders of open spaces

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE government yesterday gave its support to a campaign to protect open spaces in towns and cities and make them available for public recreation and enjoyment. A booklet published by the Open Spaces Society, and jointly funded by the environment department and Esso UK, lists more than 100 case histories of successful campaigns by local amenity groups to prevent unwanted development, and offers advice on how to identify, record, protect and improve undeveloped sites for future generations.

The booklet was launched at a reception at Kenwood House on Hampstead Heath, north London, an appropriate venue in that the society was involved in various campaigns in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to prevent building on the heath.

In the past century, the area of protected heath has grown from about 240 acres to more than 800 acres, creating one of the largest urban parks in Europe. Among the progressive additions was Kenwood itself, the spectacular villa standing on a ridge between the former villages of Hampstead and Highgate, which was remodelled by Robert Adam for Lord Mansfield between 1764 and 1779. Kate Ashbrook, the society's secretary, said that while the society was concerned about the big and famous parks, the focus of attention was now on

often-overlooked pieces of land. "Look at the forgotten bits of roadside verges, the remnants of a wood or railway line, or a school playing field," she said. "This is where title and purpose are uncertain, and where it is too easy to shrug and say: 'It's not public land, there's nothing we can do'."

The booklet, *Making Space*, shows that there is often something that can be done, with research, patience, determination and know-how. The launching of the

booklet by Lord Strathclyde, under secretary at the environment department, will be seen as a show of government support for the environmental lobby in resisting the encroachment of developers. He described it as "a timely guide to protecting and promoting awareness of our green spaces, which are so vital to us all".

Making Space (The Open Spaces Society, 25a Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2BA; £7 members, £10.50 non-members)



Day: trying to answer Muslims' concerns

Race bias law 'must cover religion'

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

THE Commission for Racial Equality is to urge the government to bring in legislation to make religious discrimination an offence.

Sir Michael Day, the commission chairman, said the group would make a formal recommendation to the Home Office next month to widen the law on racial discrimination to include discrimination on religious grounds. He said the commission would also call for the blasphemy laws to be changed to cover the Islamic faith.

The recommendation, part of a formal review of the workings of the Race Relations Act, which the commission enforces, comes as Britain's Muslim "parliament" prepares to debate a report calling for the commission to be abolished and the act to be repealed. The report, a working document to be debated by the non-elected 155-member parliament on Sunday, calls for "tough and comprehensive" laws against discrimination. It accuses the commission of failing to act against anti-Muslim discrimination and says money spent on funding it should be channelled instead into legal aid for victims of discrimination.

Sir Michael said the commission's review, its first since 1985, would cover many concerns of the Muslim community. "Within the current meaning of the Race Relations Act, the commission has no authority to deal with cases of religious discrimination. This is clearly an area which needs to be considered."

The report to be put before the Muslim parliament claims that the government failed to include protection of religious minorities in the Race Relations Act of 1976 to "divert the Muslim community into false national, racial or linguistic identities". The report claims the commission has had the effect of "sidetracking" the Muslim community from establishing any effective organisation of its own, and urges development of its own identity, with its own economic and welfare institutions.

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Care homes fall into cash trap

EXPERIMENTAL nursing homes for the elderly were highly praised in a recent report by an independent health service think-tank as a model alternative to long-stay hospital wards.

But, amid uncertainty about the provision of care for increasing numbers of elderly people, the government is accused of failing to develop the model and of redrawing the boundaries between NHS and private provision.

Three experimental NHS homes were opened in the early eighties to create a more positive environment for those who require publicly funded constant nursing care. The 25 residents of Jubilee House, one of the new venture homes in Cosham, near Portsmouth

A successful model for residential care of the elderly in the community may be going to waste, Alison Roberts reports

in Hampshire, would all be taking up beds in hospital wards, or in costly private nursing homes, if the NHS experiment did not exist.

A report by the Kings Fund Institute voices fears that closure of long-stay beds and failure to provide more NHS homes is shifting financial responsibility for the elderly from the public sector to individuals and their families.

As local authorities gear up for next year's implementation of the Community Care Act, residential home provision

has come under increasing scrutiny. Some homes need to be maintained, but limited provision exists for those who are too ill to live in social services homes without nursing.

Jubilee House aims to provide its residents with maximum freedom within a safe domestic setting. Many of the elderly people there have suffered strokes; none can walk and few have the use of both hands. They are allowed to decide when to get up in the morning, when and where to

eat meals and when to go to bed.

Christine Banerjee, head of house, said: "It is wonderful to see how they blossom. On wards old people look morose and very switched off. Here they form friendships which you rarely see on the wards. Everyone has an individual bedroom and nurses know what they like to do during the day."

Staff say that the home allows the elderly to retain dignity; once safely installed in a special bath, the door can be locked, for instance. Residents stopped nurses wearing name badges and uniforms because it was too much like a hospital.

Surprisingly, it is no more expensive to house the elderly disabled in the experimental homes than in long-stay wards. A daily cost of £47 a patient is paid by the Portsmouth and South East Hampshire health authority, which also maintains three long-stay geriatric wards of about 25 beds in two large Portsmouth hospitals.

The health department said that the government had helped to fund the pilot homes only as an example of good practice and had no plans to develop the model. A spokesman said: "We believe that the principle behind these homes is a good one, but it is up to health authorities to plan their own services."

The establishment of Jubilee House in 1984 was seen as a radical change in the way care was traditionally provided in NHS continuing care wards. The number and type of staff at Jubilee House do not follow the usual demarcations found in hospitals. Nurses are supplemented by care assistants and students from a nursing college near by. The home also benefits from social services back-up, not available to private homes.



Drawing lessons: Jubilee House resident Eva Jolliffe, 86, with nurse Maria Knight

Search for northern soul draws modern poets to Tyneside

BY SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

NEWCASTLE upon Tyne may be an unlikely magnet for poets, but the city is developing an international reputation for its verse.

Basil Bunting, the doyen of modernist poets, who died seven years ago, drew writers to his feet on his return home to the city in the 1960s. And Tony Harrison, Britain's most influential living poet, moved to Newcastle from Leeds 25 years ago. More have been flocking to the city ever since, many of them Americans, such as Anne Stevenson, Sylvia Plath's biographer.

Another poet with a growing reputation is Evangeline Patterson,

who has settled in Newcastle after living in Cambridge, St Andrews and Leicester. "People are interested in what happens here, not what the influences from London are. That's what attracts me and informs my writing," she says.

She was a reader last week at the twelfth century Morden Tower, in Newcastle's ancient city walls, where, despite lack of electricity, seating or lavatories, a poetry venue was established 28 years ago and is still going strong. Bunting was one of the first to read there, followed by Allen Ginsberg, Ted Hughes, Hugh MacDiarmid, and Adrian Mitchell.

Among the poets, where a huddle of poets reading from curly exercise books is a familiar sight. The Bridge

near the railway station is a favourite haunt for Sean O'Brien, the present Northern Arts Board literary fellow, who moved to the North East from Brighton.

"The city might be grim at first, but there is a vibrancy and excitement. The architecture is exhilarating and there's a visual tension with economic hardship," he said. His job as the fellow for the next two years is to encourage the reading of poetry from Cumbria to Berwick to Middlesbrough. "It means a lot of travel, but there is a strong tradition of community writing here, which makes my job easier."

Bloodaxe Books, founded in Newcastle 14 years ago by Neil Astley, was named after the Viking

king who captured the most famous poet of the day and spared his life in return for an epic in his honour. It has become the biggest publisher of new poetry in Britain, with 50 new titles a year, and a turnover of £250,000.

Bloodaxe recently beat off London competition to secure Irina Ratushinskaya and Benjamin Zephaniah. Two-thirds of the 100,000 volumes the company publishes are for export.

This week, Bloodaxe issues a guide to demystify contemporary poetry, while Tony Harrison, currently in London rehearsing his new theatre piece *Square Rounds* for the National Theatre, has a new volume coming from Bloodaxe in October.

"These are not necessarily poets writing about Newcastle," said Mr Astley, a southerner who settled after doing an English degree at Newcastle University. "They may write in isolation, but they do it here because it's where they are comfortable, living close to each other."

Andrew McAllister is Bloodaxe's assistant editor and presenter of Radio 4's new poetry programme, *Stanza*. He was drawn north two years ago from serving in a London bookshop. "Douglas Dunn, the Hull poet, says that a city can help poetry by not hampering it. The other arts which flourish in Newcastle actually encourage writing, and that's why this is such an important place for poetry."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Court frees driver who killed wife

A speeding driver who fell asleep at the wheel and killed his wife in a four-car pile-up was freed by a judge yesterday after pleas for mercy from her family.

George Danso, 33, hit oncoming traffic at up to 70mph in East India Dock Road, East London, with six passengers, including three children in his car, the court was told. His wife Elizabeth, 33, died from a fractured spine.

Danso, a machine operator of Finsbury Park, north London, was tired after a week of nightshifts and then attending a family christening party until the early hours. He pleaded guilty to causing his wife's death by reckless driving in August last year. He was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, suspended for a year, and banned from driving for two years.

Soldier bailed

A soldier accused of killing a colleague while on guard duty was given conditional bail by Aldershot magistrates yesterday. Sapper Stuart Nield, 17, had been charged with the manslaughter of Sapper Paul Bardett, 20, on Saturday.

Air near-miss

A packed aircraft approaching Bristol airport from Brussels nearly hit a microflight that strayed into its path 3,000ft above Bath. The Civil Aviation Authority launched an investigation yesterday.

Baker fined

British Bakeries, of Windsor, Berkshire, was fined £4,000 after Nottingham magistrates were told how Philip Dennis, 21, an employee at its factory in Warrall Nottingham, was hit on the head by a 700lb doughball.

Hitch in time

The first electric train to run on a new £40 million line between King's Lynn and Cambridge yesterday broke down within seconds. Passengers were switched to a second train that started ten minutes late.

Gifts of life

Four patients are recovering after surgeons transplanted the heart, kidneys and liver of Charles Tease, 13, from Whitburn, Edinburgh, who was carrying a donor card when he died after falling 150ft at a quarry.

Aid agencies claim US airlift will spur violence in Somalia

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

THE American military operation to fly tens of thousands of tons of food to the starving population of Somalia has been criticised bitterly by a range of aid organisations. They say the airlift could lead to an increase in violence and will severely stretch the capacities of the agencies expected to handle food distribution.

Washington pledged last week to send 145,000 tons of food to try to save the 4.5 million Somalis at risk from hunger, and immediately ordered the United States Air Force to take food into Somalia. But the plan had not been fully disclosed to the United Nations and other organisations with experience of Somalia, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, that are expected to distribute the food in conditions of violent anarchy.

The first consignment of split peas and other products carried by the American planes is expected to be flown into Baidoa, western Somalia, this week. But agencies working in the area are worried that a plane carrying huge amounts of food will attract looters like a honey-pot for bees.

Last week, Red Cross operations in Baidoa, where about 200 in a population of about 65,000 die every day, were suspended after a "security incident" involving the agency's own food stocks. A month before that, the Red Cross lost at least ten tons of food to armed men from the United Somali Congress, which is led by General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the country's pre-eminent warlord. In July, the United Nations children's fund (Unicef) compound was raided.

No additional security arrangements beyond the gunmen hired to protect aid agencies in Baidoa have been made because the UN troops soon to be deployed in Mogadishu will be restricted to the Somali capital. One aid off-

icial said: "We are worried that if the food is just dumped in Baidoa, or wherever the planes eventually go, there could be a real battle for control of it. Food is virtually the only currency in the country and those with guns want the lion's share."

Officially at least, America has no plans to send troops to protect the food it delivers to Somalia, but Washington is staunchly behind the view that additional UN forces will soon have to be sent to ensure that relief gets through to those who need it.

An American embassy official in Nairobi agreed yesterday that the military airlift had caught diplomats in the Kenyan capital off guard and that there were many logistical and security problems that still had to be addressed. "We were caught between a rock and a hard place. Either we spend two months planning the operation and people say we are too late, or we come in and make it work on the ground. At least this way people are taking notice of Somalia and that can only be a good thing," he said. "The real question is security. We are aware of that and anxious to highlight the need to get the Somali gunmen to understand that the food is for their starving kinfolk."

Over the past year America has contributed \$85 million (\$44 million), about a third of the money donated to Somalia, and plans to spend another \$200 million, matching the Red Cross budget for the blighted country. The 145,000 tons promised has not yet been ordered because it will come in the next federal budget year, which begins on October 1. Until then, the American planes will be carrying in 27,000 tons of food donated by other governments and agencies.

The slow reaction to Somalia by the United States, then this massive plan with no planning is a bit of a tragedy,"

a senior aid official said. "I hope that it will not backfire. Let us pray that they get the food they have promised and that they can deliver it without aid workers on the ground risking their lives because it comes in too fast and without the proper groundwork. The one thing we do not need in Somalia is more chaos."

Others are less pessimistic. In the long run, they said, no matter how food gets to Somalia, the more there is the less violence there will be. Iain MacCleod, Unicef's Somalia spokesman, said: "The bottom line is that we have to flood Somalia with food."

Jerusalem: Abie Nathan, the Israeli peace activist, said yesterday that he plans to seek UN support for the creation of a camp for refugees along the Somalia-Kenya border. He spoke of providing about 2,000 tents to house up to 40,000 Somali refugees. (AP)

Letters, page 11



Air cover: an Afghan soldier taking up position behind a ruined plane at Kabul airport yesterday during clashes with Hezb-i-Islami guerrillas, led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who are opposed to the government

Diplomats flee Kabul under fire

FROM SUZY PRICE IN KABUL

FRENCH and Italian diplomats and the injured Bulgarian ambassador fled Kabul before dawn yesterday and the Red Cross handed over responsibility for its hospital to the health ministry, saying that the warring factions did not respect its premises.

The diplomats braved a night of intense exchanges of fire between the dissident Hezb-i-Islami party and government troops, apparently abandoning hope of a promised ceasefire to allow embassy staff to leave. The group comprised six French diplomats, five Italians and three Bulgarians, including the ambassador who was wounded by shrapnel when a rocket hit the embassy on Sunday.

The convoy headed north on the main road to Tarmak on the Uzbekistan border, 250 miles northeast of Kabul, an official at the French embassy in Islamabad said. An Afghan government plane had been sent to pick them up. (Reuters)

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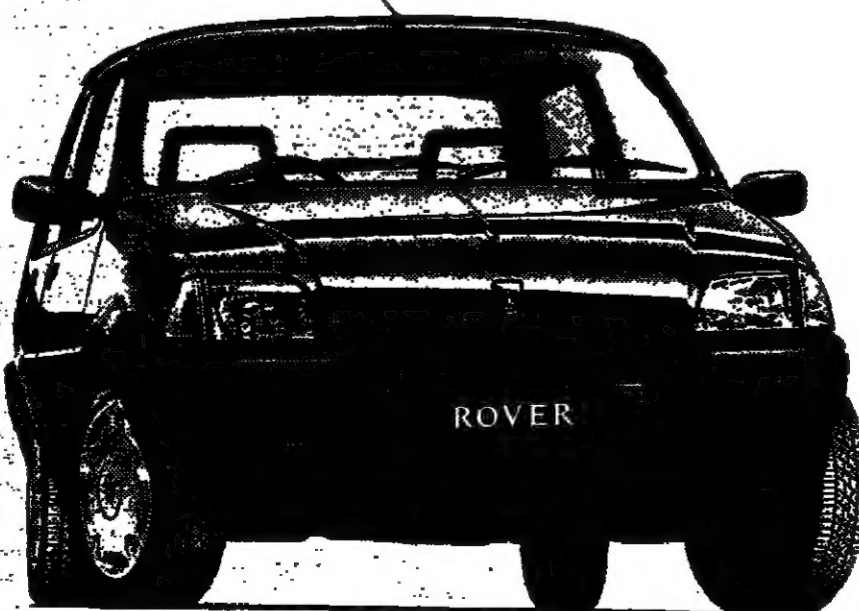
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Peking and Seoul end 40-year feud

China has strengthened its hand in Asia by opening relations with Seoul, writes Catherine Sampson

THE Chinese and South Korean foreign ministers ended four decades of enmity yesterday when they signed a protocol establishing diplomatic relations. But while the cold war between Peking and Seoul is over, that between South Korea and North Korea is not, and Peking is now in the middle.

Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, said yesterday that Peking's "very good" relations with Pyongyang would continue and suggested that China's new ties with South Korea would be "constructive to... a continued improvement of relations" between North and South Korea. Peking's improved relations with South Korea have coincided during the past year with a slight thawing in relations between the two Koreas, but the two armies still face each other across one of the most heavily militarised borders in the world. Whatever Peking's willingness to act as matchmaker, it is not at all clear that Seoul and Pyongyang are prepared to kiss and make up.

North Korea's silence yesterday was the most telling indication both of its displeasure and its desperation. Given its lack of other friends, it could not even indulge in the luxury of an outburst against its betrayal by Peking.

While the Peking-run Wen Wei Po newspaper published in Hong Kong insisted that North Korea and China would continue to be "as close as lips and teeth", it looked to analysts like the end of a "blood-cemented friendship". Even the Wen Wei Po admitted that Peking undoubtedly had had to spend much time persuading Pyongyang to accept the fact that China was to take this step.

China fought on the side of North Korea in the Korean war of 1950-53 and only since the late 1980s has contemplated trade with the bitter enemy of

those days. South Korea. Last year, Seoul and Peking set up trade offices in each other's capitals and bilateral trade is expected to reach \$3.2 billion this year.

Yesterday's ceremony was the clearest indication so far that Peking has abandoned ideological correctness in favour of economic development and a strong position in Asia. Its decision mirrors its domestic policy, where capitalist reform led by Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader, is gradually dismantling the socialist state.

The five-year Communist party congress due to take place this autumn is expected to endorse a "socialist market economy" that will be ready and willing to absorb investment from all China's new-found friends in Asia.

Before 1989, China's policy focused on opening to the West. But it was the West that most loudly voiced its disapproval of the mass killings of Tiananmen Square demonstrators by the army that summer. Asian countries, many of them with similarly dictatorial governments, did not react with such horror and that is where Peking has achieved most in diplomatic terms in the past three years.

Of all the developed countries, it was Japan that first lifted the economic sanctions imposed after the killings. While Chinese officials still condemn Japanese atrocities during the second world war, they are not averse to welcoming the Japanese emperor to Peking this autumn and accepting whatever soft loans he brings.

Since 1989, China has normalised relations with Vietnam and established ties with Indonesia and Singapore. Yesterday's deal with South Korea stripped Taiwan of its last Asian diplomatic ally. Peking insists that none of its diplomatic partners should have relations with Taiwan.

Israel brings more concessions to the Middle East talks

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

YITZHAK Rabin, Israel's prime minister, yesterday offered fresh concessions to Palestinians in the occupied territories, cancelling 11 deportation orders, only hours before Israel reopened peace talks in Washington with its Arab neighbours.

Mr Rabin, who is also defence minister, said that the Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip would not be expelled, but would nonetheless remain in administrative detention. His move was clearly timed to create a more positive atmosphere at the sixth round of talks involving Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese representatives.

The detention orders against the men were made in January, under the then right-wing government of Yitzhak Shamir, after a spate of shootings by Palestinians of Jewish settlers. The move, banned under international law, was widely condemned abroad.

Although Israel has insisted that deportation remains a valid method of punishment for security suspects, the unilateral move, together with Sunday's announcement that 800 convicted Palestinians would be freed, is likely to put pressure on the Arab side to reciprocate.

Mr Rabin apparently wants

his delegation to break up into subcommittees with the Palestinians to discuss in detail every aspect of their rival claims to the occupied territories, with a view to Palestinian elections being held there within 12 months and to beginning the transfer from Israeli military rule to Palestinian self-government.

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's new leading negotiator with the Syrian delegation, is also expected to discuss the possibility of some "territorial compromise" on the strategic Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria during the 1967 six-day war. However, Syria has traditionally insisted on a complete Israeli withdrawal.

On Sunday night, James Baker, whose diplomacy had brought Arabs and Israelis to the negotiating table and kept them there, formally resigned as Secretary of State to head President Bush's re-election campaign, taking Dennis Ross, his senior aide on the Middle East, with him to the White House.

The impending move had caused consternation among the Arab delegations, which had come to trust Mr Baker, but the fact is that a breakthrough before November's election would enhance Mr Bush's stature and delight America's Jewish voters. Mr

Baker will continue to keep a close watch on the month-long talks. "There should be no doubt whatsoever that I can use Jim Baker if he's needed," said Lawrence Eagleburger, the new acting Secretary of State.

The impending American election will also weigh heavily with the Palestinian delegation, which fears that a victory by Bill Clinton could herald Washington's return to the robust pro-Israel stance of earlier administrations. The persistence of Palestinians in the occupied territories is not intractable, and the delegation will be tempted to grab Israeli concessions while they can.

Mr Rabin wants to cement his slim parliamentary majority by demonstrating that his moderate stance brings more benefits than the hardline policies of his predecessor. Mr Rabin has already persuaded Mr Bush to unfreeze \$10 billion (£5.2 billion) in loan guarantees by curtailing new settlements in the occupied territories.

After more than 40 years of conflict, everyone is "suddenly rushing to make peace", said one Israeli diplomat. Elyakim Rubinstein, the chief Israeli negotiator, said on his arrival in Washington that it was a "time of opportunity. We'd like... to achieve results as soon as possible."

Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, said before leaving for America: "You will be encouraged by the attitude of the proposals that will be presented in Washington. I hope we will see you... in a month or so having achieved concrete results."

Reflecting the changed attitudes, these talks are scheduled to last three times longer than previous rounds and there will not be the daily media briefings that had become exercises in point-scoring. One of the main sticking points in the talks will be the nature and role of an interim, elected, Palestinian governing authority.

Israel wants an administrative council of fewer than 20 members with no say over defence and foreign policy matters or the protection of Jewish settlements. The Palestinians want a 180-member national assembly with legislative functions, the forerunner of an independent state — something the Israelis will not countenance.

Mr Rabin faces opposition to his flexible approach from militant right-wingers. The growing friction between left and right in Israeli politics was illustrated vividly earlier yesterday when Israeli troops in the West Bank bashed extremist Jewish settlers near the Palestinian town of Hebron. At least 30 settlers were arrested and two hurt when they tried to protect a newly erected house threatened with demolition and defied an order declaring the area a "closed military zone".

"A military zone is used against hostile forces, Arab forces, and they are using it against Jews," said Zvi Katzover, one of the local settler leaders.

Hezbollah gains in Lebanese poll

FROM ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

THE pro-Iranian Muslim extremist group Hezbollah (Party of God) yesterday claimed surprise victories in the initial phase of Lebanon's first parliamentary elections in 20 years, sending shock waves throughout the country and prompting the Speaker to resign.

Hussein Husseini, the Speaker, who was running against Hezbollah, announced his resignation from parliament after the apparent defeat of his list of candidates in his constituency of Baalbek and Hermil, 52 miles east of Beirut.

Hezbollah announced that preliminary results, accounting for more than half the ballot boxes, showed that Sayyed Ibrahim al-Amin, the party's former secretary-general, and three other party members have won between 15,000 and 23,000 votes. Three of Hezbollah's allies won a similar number of votes. The second round of the voting is on Sunday.

Hezbollah's votes exceeded by far the figures that it said were won by Mr Husseini and his list of candidates. According to their count, the Speaker has gained slightly more than 10,000 votes so far, enabling him to win only one of the remaining two seats, while Majed Hamadeh, his traditional rival, might win the other. There were no official results available yet, but repre-

sentatives of all candidates have the right to be present during the vote count.

Mr Husseini, in a statement at dawn said that there was huge falsification in counting the votes and casting the ballots in his constituency. His representatives at the counting stations withdrew at midnight on Sunday claiming that some of the ballot boxes arrived unsealed.

He had telephoned Rashid al-Solh, the prime minister, and urged him to convene an emergency cabinet meeting yesterday to stop the elections in the constituency. He threatened to call for a special parliamentary session today and take decisions if the government did not declare the elections in Baalbek and Hermil null and void. But Mr al-Solh preferred to delay the meeting until today after the final results of the elections.

In Zahleh, home town of President Hrawi 26 miles east of Beirut, final results showed the defeat of all candidates supported by the president, including his son, Roy Hrawi, and his right-hand man, Shawkat Fakhour, the minister of transport.

Hezbollah's surprise victory spread fear and apprehension among Lebanon's Christian community. They were afraid that the party's political programme of turning Lebanon into an Islamic state would gain more momentum.

Scandal in Brazil

Collor faces political ruin

FROM MAC MARGOLIS IN RIO DE JANEIRO

FRIENDS and associates of President Collor de Mello "took over the state by assault", manipulating the bureaucracy for favours and personal profit, bleeding the government of hundreds of millions of pounds, according to the report of a congressional panel investigating corruption in government.

The 200-page report, read yesterday to a packed Brazilian senate, gave minute details of Brazil's worst political scandal, which threatens to bring down the government of President Collor. Tomorrow the panel will vote on whether to send the report on the full lower house, where opponents of Senator Collor will bring impeachment proceedings against him.

The report alleged that Senator Collor not only had knowledge of, but also failed to halt, the illicit activities of his associates, led by Paulo Cesar Farias, an old friend and former campaign manager. The charges against Senator Farias were first aired by Senator Collor's younger brother, who accused the president of being a "frontman" for Senator Farias's various illegal dealings. The author of the report, Amir Lando, a

senator, cited Montesquieu, the poet Pablo Neruda, and the gospel according to John ("Know the truth and it shall make you free").

Summing up 84 days of hearings, the report concludes



Collor will probably face impeachment

that Senator Farias and a handful of associates took advantage of the "tumult" of an administrative reform to install a "parallel ministry" in Brasilia, the nation's capital. There, they are alleged to have manipulated for private gain contracts and funds, practising bank fraud, bid rigging, and the brokering of public

money. The panel examined bank documents, more than 40,000 cancelled cheques, and a paper trail that stretched from Montevideo to Miami in Florida. Senator Farias, the congressional report concluded, capitalised on Senator Collor's radical restructuring of government, becoming, in effect, brokers of favours and funds, charging "exorbitant and unjustifiable prices" for fictitious services.

Some of the "plethora of administrative and fiscal irregularities" tied to Senator Farias are:

- Inflating the bids on a medical facility in the state of Alagoas, Senator Collor's home state, in order to finance a candidate for governor. The facility cost half the £8.3 million awarded for its construction.
- Rigging a bid for the Brazilian health ministry for vastly over-priced supplies of pesticides used in a campaign to combat dengue fever.
- Charging millions of pounds for consulting services to companies seeking public works contracts.
- Supplying more than £5.2 million in personal expenses to Senator Collor, to his family, and his political supporters.



Taking a break: Bill Clinton, right, and Al Gore, his presidential running mate, eating ice cream yesterday in the grounds of the Chautauque Institute in New York state. Both men have condemned the Republicans for negative campaigning

Clinton accuses Bush in God-and-country battle

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

GOD has become an issue in the American presidential election. President Bush's weekend condemnation of the Democrats for failing to mention God in their manifesto has provoked a furious riposte from Bill Clinton. The insinuation that the Democrats were godless was a "deeply offensive" political ploy, declared the church-going Arkansas governor.

Mr Bush "basically said that unless you believe in the Republican platform you don't believe in God and you're not an American", he commented. The president was cynically promoting "an atmosphere of intolerance", trying to turn his opponents into "cultural aliens by distorting their words, misrepresent-

ing their values and dividing the American people". After a week of relentless Republican assaults on their characters and values, Mr Clinton and his wife, Hillary, have begun retaliating. Mr Bush accused his opponent of "whining and complaining" but even some top Republicans fear the attacks have gone too far this time.

"I don't like to see the bashing of anybody's wife," admitted Jack Kemp, the housing secretary. "I do not want to see a religious war, a jihad, or some kind of battle that splits America. You can win an election but you cannot govern the country by dividing the American people."

In a series of statements, the Clintons and Al and Tipper

Gore sought to make the attacks on themselves an issue by exploiting the electorate's disgust with negative campaigning. Mr Clinton called the Republican convention "the most negative in my lifetime" and commented: "Never, ever, had a political party attacked the spouse of a candidate in the way my wife was attacked." Mrs Clinton was accused of being a radical feminist who equated marriage with slavery.

Mrs Gore commented that the Republicans' idea of family values was "bashing other people's families", while her husband, Mr Clinton's running mate, said the Bush-Quayle camp had started to "reach down and get big double handfuls of mud to

sling every which way" to distract attention from their record.

Unrepentant, Mr Bush told rally after rally that he had not even begun to fight yet, while Republican strategists privately acknowledged that they had little choice but to mount an all-out offensive on the Democratic nominee who leads by about ten points with barely 70 days to go.

Mr Clinton conceded that Mr Bush appeared to be gaining on him in the polls. But he also predicted that lack of substance in Mr Bush's economic proposals would enable the Democrats to stay ahead.

Yesterday Mr Bush announced a \$10 billion (£5.1 billion) five-year programme

for retraining workers that included several ideas his administration had previously opposed. "New Century Workforce" appeared to be aimed at the key electoral region of the industrialised Midwest, where workers fear the North American Free Trade Agreement will destroy their jobs, and at California where thousands of defence workers are being laid off.

Mario Cuomo, the governor of New York, blamed the slump in the value of the American dollar on Mr Bush's promise of tax cuts. International financial markets and "the rest of the world" are telling America "you're broke and you're saying you're going to give people back maybe a billion dollars", he said.

Hurricane blamed on sub-Saharan drought

MIAMI'S worst hurricane in over 50 years raises once more the question of climatic change. After the devastation of South Carolina in 1989 by Hugo and of Jamaica in 1988 by Gilbert — the strongest hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic — it might appear that these storms are becoming more common. More vigorous hurricanes are a predicted effect of global warming.

The essential ingredient for such storms is an ocean temperature in excess of 27°C. As the climate warms, ocean temperatures will rise and with them the intensity and frequency of hurricanes. But climate cannot be explained so easily. The incidence of hurricanes in the Atlantic in recent decades has shown complex

William Burroughs looks at the history of Atlantic hurricanes in the past few decades

variations which raise interesting questions about links to tropical climates.

The temperatures of the equatorial Pacific and Atlantic play a central role. When the Pacific is abnormally warm the Atlantic tends to be cool. A warm Pacific, as is the case this year, means that the Atlantic has a quiet hurricane season.

There is also a connection with rainfall in the Sahel of sub-Saharan Africa, which

has experienced frequent severe drought since the end of the 1960s. It is argued that in years when the rainfall is above normal the chance of Atlantic hurricanes is greater. The is because westward-moving weather systems associated with the rainy season in the Sahel give an added boost to hurricane formation in the equatorial Atlantic.

During the 1950s and 1960s rainfall in the Sahel was above normal and intense hurricanes were more frequent than in subsequent years. But in 1988 and 1989 rainfall in the Sahel was nearer normal and Gilbert and Hugo appear to be the result. Since then, the Sahel has been dry.

On this basis 1992 should be a quiet year in the Atlantic.

Clearly one hurricane does not make a season. Furthermore, Andrew is not that exceptional, being of the same calibre as Hugo and the storm that hit Miami in September 1926. Unless it picks up steam over the Gulf of Mexico, it will remain small fry compared to Gilbert in 1988 or Camille, which devastated the Gulf Coast in 1969 or the Labour Day storm of 1935 which razed the Florida Keys with 200mph winds.

So there is no reason to assume that Andrew is evidence of the greenhouse effect. It could prove to be, but for the moment it can only be seen as part of normal climatic variability.

Trail of destruction, page 1
Hopes dashed, page 17

ANC 'not to blame' for death

Johannesburg: The killers of Andre de Villiers, the white farmer shot dead a week ago after giving the African National Congress information about a suspected security-force hit squad, were not members of Umkhonto we Sive, the ANC's armed wing, according to a friend of his (Ray Kennedy writes).

Valence Watson, a member of the ANC, said at Port Elizabeth, in the eastern Cape: "Something extremely fishy is going on. The words of a dying man were that the murder was political and that there would be a cover-up. I have every reason to believe him." Major General Koos Calitz, the regional police commissioner, said on Sunday that two trained ANC guerrillas and a third black man had been arrested for the murder.

Eruption nears

Mazilia: Experts say a violent eruption of Mount Pinatubo is close, with more than 440 earthquakes recorded in 24 hours. Six people have died and some 600,000 have fled as a result of flooding and the volcano's activity.

Tiger kills girl

Bangalore: A tiger smashed the window of a tourist van in a national park near here and grabbed an Indian girl, aged five. She was dragged away as 25 other children watched helplessly. The girl's body was found later. (Reuters)

Tent victims

Marseilles: Five Dutch women tourists were injured, one seriously, when a stolen car fell on top of their tent at a beach near here. Police said the thieves had apparently pushed the vehicle over a cliff to get rid of it. (Reuters)

Case in point

Peking: Shanghai police arrested Guo Weicheng, 36, an electrical worker dubbed "the vicious wolf" who prowled on buses jabbing women's behinds with knitting needles. In 15 months, he attacked 28 women. (Reuters)

Pretoria broadens talks about talks

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE government and opposition groups yesterday continued tentatively to discuss resuming constitutional talks, but involving a wider range of participants than the convention deadlocked in May.

Roelf Meyer, minister of constitutional affairs, resumed talks that began two weeks ago with the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC). Although 19 parties took part in the Convention on a Democratic South Africa (Codesa), which broke down in May, its discussions were dominated by four main players: the government, the ruling National party, the African National Congress and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom party. It was shunned by the white right wing, the PAC and the Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo).

A government spokesman said yesterday that Mr Meyer would be holding separate exploratory talks with various parties today and hoped to continue discussions he had on Friday with Cyril Ramaphosa, ANC secretary-general. Gill Marcus, an ANC spokeswoman, said that, although Meyer and Ramaphosa were meeting, it did not mean that the ANC had backed away from its 14

conditions for resuming negotiations.

Meyer yesterday met a PAC delegation led by Gora Ebrahim, its secretary of foreign affairs. Mr Ebrahim said they would discuss PAC demands for a neutral venue for the new talks under a non-partisan chairman. Mr Meyer has indicated that the government will not hold talks outside South Africa, but has suggested a compromise might be possible.

The Azanian People's Organisation, a hardline black consciousness movement, has appointed Archbishop Khoso Makhulu of Botswana to broker talks with the government. The Afrikaner Volksunie, a breakaway faction of the pro-apartheid Conservative party led by five MPs, is also expected to hold discussions with Meyer.

The Conservative party, however, remains adamantly opposed to negotiations involving the ANC. Ferdi Hartzenberg, deputy leader, said that while the party was "prepared to negotiate the questions of land and co-operative independence with the leaders of other national groups, the CP will not negotiate with the ANC and the SACP (South African Communist party)."

New York state sued over gull massacre

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

Seagulls from the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge wait lastly over John F. Kennedy International Airport on their way to New York's rubbish dumps. Many do not make it, but are blasted out of the sky by government sharpshooters, to the fury of environmentalists who say a rare species of gull is being wiped out.

Since the government's annual bird shoot began in May about 10,000 birds, mostly laughing gulls, have been shot in and around the airport to prevent them crashing into aircraft. Last week, a New York animal welfare group, the Fund for Animals, sued the New York state department of environmental conservation in an effort to stop a repetition.

Seagulls have long been seen as a safety hazard at the airport, but the annual summer cull grew in importance after an incident last year when a Boeing 747 bound for Tokyo had to abort its takeoff because a gull flew into one of its jet engines.

The city's port authority says the cull has reduced by almost half the number of "bird strikes", but conserva-

tionists argue there are other, non-lethal ways of persuading the birds to avoid the airport. One is to let the grass around the airport grow long because seagulls are attracted to short grass; another is to drain the runways more effectively. Enforcement of prohibitions against feeding birds at the airport, they argue, would also reduce the risk. The Fund for Animals says the use of federal marksmen employed by the agriculture department to kill the birds is illegal and inhumane.

Previous attempts to get rid of the gulls have included using trained falcons, model planes and cannons as well as putting up hot-air balloons with owls painted on them and coating the gulls' eggs in mineral oil to suffocate the embryos.

Between 1979 and 1990, 50 aircraft were damaged in collisions with birds. Ornithologists say collisions represent only a tiny proportion of the 280,000 flights in and out of the airport every year, and that the laughing gull is blamed when accidents usually involve other birds.

1500-1600

Faith in schooling

Jonathan Sacks ponders exams and family values

John Patten could hardly have hoped for a more rapid and stunning confirmation of his white paper on education. Heading this week's *Sunday Times* list of schools performing best at A level were two London comprehensive schools which fulfil to the letter his vision of the place of religious and moral values in education. Hasmoonean High School for Girls and the parallel Hasmoonean High for Boys are orthodox Jewish establishments. They were built on and unashamedly project a distinctive religious ethos. They have out-performed all other state schools in the country. Other orthodox Jewish schools, such as King David High in Liverpool and the Jewish Free School in Camden, did only marginally less well.

I confess to a personal interest in the results. Our elder daughter is a pupil at Hasmoonean High, and all three of our children attended its preparatory school. The irony is that when we chose the school, academic performance was our last and least consideration. We wanted a school that would be supportive of our values as a family, and an environment in which our religious faith and traditions would be taken seriously and in which right and wrong were not meaningless words. We sought a school where the life of the mind is developed in the context of other, no less important values: belonging to a community, respect for others and responsibility to society.

We have been richly rewarded. The paradox of the Hasmoonean schools' success is that their teaching staff probably rate academic results relative low among their priorities. Pupils are taught the importance of collective worship. They are encouraged to engage in welfare work with the elderly and to raise money for charitable causes. Many of them go on to pursue specifically religious studies before taking up places at university. Academic achievement as measured by GCSEs and A levels is a by-product rather than the central thrust of the ethos of the schools. And here, I believe, lies the moral to be learned from their success.

For far too long, thinking about education has been dominated by a fallacy: the belief that schools are independent variables, islands untouched by the moral ebb and flow of the society surrounding them. To improve results one must improve schools, which is a largely technical matter involving teacher training, learning materials and curriculum development. There is much in this view that is true. But it touches on less than half of the truth. From the acres of educational research produced here and elsewhere, two other propositions emerge, overshadowing all else.

The single most potent factor in individual academic success is parental involvement and support. And the single most striking feature of successful schools is their clear sense of collective purpose. These are matters not of technique but of value, and they immediately set the school in the wider context it deserves. A society doing nothing to combat the disintegration of the family will yield academic underachievement however technically excellent its teachers. A community not held together by shared values will fail to produce outstanding schools.

Judaism sets the highest religious value on education. Through its schools, the community has transmitted its values across the generations; through study, pupils internalise the individual and collective moral responsibility at the heart of the Bible. These are neither liberal nor secular premises. But I believe they promote more effectively than any alternative the values that Western societies have come to cherish: universal access to knowledge, the dignity of the individual and personal growth. Jews predicated their survival on schools and their spirituality on education, and it has worked. Judging by this week's results it still does.

John Patten, with commendable clarity, has had the courage to say what needed to be said. Schools are shaped by it and shape it in turn. Education is a moral enterprise and, in the fullest sense of the word, a spiritual one as well. A school performs best when it encourages the participation not only of its pupils but of their parents and when it creates a moral community with roots deep in the traditions of which they are a part.

Dr Jonathan Sacks is the Chief Rabbi.

Hillary Clinton and Barbara Bush are being forced to hide their political talents, says Ben Macintyre

The war of the wives

James Joyce thought you could "always see a fellow's weak point in his wife". Nowadays the wives of American presidential candidates are playing a more prominent, if symbolic, role than ever before.

Barbara Bush's unglamorous surface went down a storm at the Republican convention, while Hillary Clinton — unfairly portrayed by right-wing Republicans as a "radical feminist" — is increasingly perceived as her husband's weak point.

The election is being fought largely over women this year, the women running for office are more numerous and more capable than ever, and "family values" and abortion have dominated the political debate. Seven million more women than men voted at the last three elections, and their votes will plainly prove critical to the outcome in November.

American women enjoy more freedom and power than their counterparts in any other country (including Britain), yet the candidates wives (both presidential and vice-presidential) have found themselves playing roles more reminiscent of dutiful 1950s housewives than independent, politically-minded women of the 1990s.

Thanks to the "family values" debate, the battle between the wives has been reduced to a cookie-baking competition, a homelier-than-thou tussle which demeans all the advances made by American women in the last 50 years, and belies the real personalities of the women who would be America's first ladies.

Barbara Bush has established a remarkable cameo role for herself: firm in belief but short on politics, dignified, genuine, the white-haired keeper of the nation's morals, unswayed by the hypocrisy of politicians — a sort of cross between Grandma Walton and the Queen Mother. Before her convention speech, Mrs Bush claimed she had not read the Republican manifesto, and her own speech was a triumph of home-baked nonsense: "However you define family, that's what we mean by family values," she said, without irony.

Nothing could be further from

the real Barbara Bush, who is not only an extremely witty political operator, but tough as tar-mac and with a clear agenda of her own. She was largely responsible for the firing of John Sununu, she rigorously controls access to the president and is merciless in freezing out anyone who crosses the line.

But when Barbara Bush took the stage last week, upholding in some sort of curtain material, it was as the stand-by-your-man, apple-pie grandmother of 16 (and millions more), and the delegates loved it. "Barbara for President," read one of the signs held aloft.

Similarly, Marilyn Quayle, who is by any standards a more adept politician than her husband, referred to her address as "a teeny, weeny little talk", and told the faithful (to ecstatic chants) that "most women do not want to be liberated from their essential natures" — ie maternal, uxorious and unthreatening. To prove her point, Mrs

Quayle has given up her legal career to support her husband.

At the start of the campaign, the Democrats promoted Hillary Clinton as an independent-minded, tough-talking new model woman, combining a thriving law practise with family life and a relationship of equality with her husband. That backfired badly. Articles written by Mrs Clinton on child law and marriage were quoted out of context, and the Republicans have turned her into a symbol of emasculating feminism.

After some emergency image surgery, the old Hillary Clinton has now disappeared without trace. She has forsaken the power suits for a teenage hair-band and gazes at her husband on public occasions with doe-like adoration. At the Democratic convention, she hugged her family, danced a little on stage, and hardly opened her mouth. For the image-consultants, this was a triumph: for many women who had been comfortable with Hil-

lary Clinton as a wife and professional, it was an insult.

Similarly, Tipper Gore, once a prominent political campaigner in her own right and on her own issues, has melted into the background lest voters imagine that she, rather than Al Gore, wears the jogging shorts in the family.

Four intelligent, independent, politically-active women have been reduced to little more than symbolic wives and mothers, although they are much else besides. Partly this reflects a fear, exacerbated by Nancy Reagan's manipulations, of the over-powerful presidential wife; but it is also evidence of the prejudice deep in the mythology of American life that politics is for men.

Yet while the political consultants may be able to transform the parties' most prominent spokeswomen back into housewives, they cannot reverse half a decade of rapid female emancipation, and there is evidence that the nostalgia for the little women of yesteryear is not playing well

among women voters. While Pat Buchanan's incoherent swipes at the independent Hillary Clinton were cheered by the Republican faithful at Houston, they have not improved Mr Bush's standing among women, which is already dangerously low. Career-minded women of both parties have been shocked at the speed with which Hillary Clinton rushed back to the kitchen and the cookbooks when her "family values" were questioned.

Once seen as a vote-winner for the Democrats, her views and career are now a subject to be avoided: "If George [Bush] wants to run against my wife, it's OK with me if he wants to be first lady," says Bill Clinton, "but I don't want to live with him." End of discussion.

Liberated American women rightly argue that they should choose whether to be wives and mothers or politically-active career women or both. What many find galling is that politics seems to require would-be first ladies to pretend to be one kind of woman when they are obviously another. Whichever wife is in the White House after November, she is bestirring things, but not in the kitchen.

Can the royal family survive?

A wave of scandal is undermining the standing and authority of the Crown, argues Janet Daley

Only on Saturday, the Duchess of York's transgressions seemed to be overshadowing the marital problems of the Prince and Princess of Wales. By this week, tape-recordings which purport to offer evidence of an improper attachment between the future queen and a male admirer were being published in daily instalments.

The tape could prove to be a fake, but given the public's sceptical attitude after the publication of pictures of the duchess on her San Tropez holiday with her financial adviser, Mr John Bryan, rumour and gossip are bound to dog the family. Sadly, whether the tabloid claims are true or false, they are sure to propel the princess and the heirs to the throne into the heart of the debate about the future of the monarchy.

The story as it unfolds is no longer high tragedy but low comedy. Purists who insist that none of this sordid carry-on matters in constitutional terms are missing the point. Britain creates its institutions by accretion. The monarchy as we know it is the sum total of assumptions and accommodations passed down through generations of royal advisers. With hindsight we can see what a risk it was to attempt to retrieve the stability and honour of the throne after the abdication crisis, by turning the royal family into the embodiment of middle class respectability.

For one thing, it was at odds with the apologetic monarchy that is most difficult to counter: the mystical argument that whoever reigns embodies within his or her person the continuity of the state, so ensuring that the

historical integrity of the nation is above politics. It is very difficult, even for those reared to the task, to be mythical and bourgeois at the same time. Accepting a Windsor as the sacred receptacle of all that has unified England since Henry VII requires a suspension of disbelief at the best of times, but there are many who argue, in ways which do not seem altogether fabulous even to a republican, that the existence of a non-political head of state is a good thing.

And it is hard not to agree that the abolition of the monarchy would be so massively traumatic to legal and parliamentary procedure that a written constitution would inevitably be required to fill the vacuum. Having grown up in a country with one of the most cumbersome written constitutions imaginable, I need little persuading that such a result is to be avoided if at all possible.

Having recreated itself in a self-contradictory image — that of an ordinary, congenial family which happens to have inherited the consecrated spirit of the nation — the monarchy now finds that the two roles have become hopelessly confused in the public imagination. If they are not the stable family which we have supposed them to be, then that must also corrupt their function as inheritors of the divine right to rule.

It is no good pedantic constitutionalists arguing that the legal function of the crown is not compromised by private scandal or even irresponsibility. Of course, in a narrow technical sense, it isn't. But the country has been led to believe something quite specific that the family



Pillar of respectability: only the Queen can restore the family's image

life of these people is crucial to their position. That this is what links them to their subjects, as much as anything because in a modern democracy, it seems unacceptable to be ruled by people whose personal expectations are widely unlike those of most people.

So they are stuck with it. If they fail to stand for all that we wish to idealise in our own domesticity, they will be in dispute and the throne itself will come into question. Marital peace and sexual purity are not optional extras. They are of the essence. (This was implicitly acknowledged when, at the time of her engagement, it was widely suggested that the future Princess of Wales was a virgin.)

Even a purely symbolic institution must symbolise something other than the need for such an institution. Stripped of the happy

family image, the monarchy becomes an expediency to which we cling for fear of something worse.

I cannot see how this saga can possibly have (from the monarch's point of view) a happy ending. After this most recent spate of genuinely risible publicity, it seems unlikely that Princess Diana can become queen (and there is some evidence that she does not wish to do so). There has been much dispute about whether Charles could reign if he were divorced. His role as head of an established church appears to make the idea insupportable.

If he abdicates in favour of his son, the rearing of Princess Diana's children becomes a very awkward matter. She is still well-loved in the country and even among those less than entranced, there can be little doubt

that she is a devoted mother. To take her children from her would be a move of such cataclysmic unpopularity that it might well bring down the monarchy in and of itself. But what if she leaves the family and raises the princes outside it, perhaps even with a stepfather? (Contrary to much of the speculation about the future of the children of both the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York, there is no longer a legal concept of child custody. Since the Children Act of 1989, divorced parents automatically have "shared parental responsibility". Although there would still be a question of who the children would live with, the nastier wrangle over official "custody" would not arise.)

Ironically, this is another example of how the family firm has become a trap endangering the entire system of monarchy. In earlier ages, when the divine right of kings was seriously believed in and there was no nonsense about happy marriage, it mattered little whether the next inheritor of the throne was even on speaking terms with the present incumbent. An heir could turn up from any corner of Christendom to stake his claim, and provided that he could establish his identity would ascend the throne. The idea of any future monarch needing to be reared within the bosom of the reigning branch of the family — needing to be schooled in appropriate codes of behaviour and the obligations of privilege — is itself a bourgeois idea quite at odds with the notion of a hereditary right to rule.

The fashionable solution to this tangled mess is that we should retain the monarchy itself in its most sharply defined legal role while removing all the rest of the extended family from the picture, with the civil list providing for only the reigning monarch and an immediate successor. Certainly this way we would save some money and even more embarrassment by reducing the number of players. It just might work if we also cut out the funkyness and the mystification that have come to seem so absurd in the light of the glimpses we have had into the lives of some of the Queen's relations. The press would probably be less interested in the mindless hedonism of a duchess if it were not being funded by the taxpayer.

This would not resolve the problem of the immediate succession, but given the likely longevity of the Queen there is time to live down a great deal of notoriety to be lived down. By then, however, we might just have found a rather more sensible way to preserve our spiritual inheritance than by embedding it in the person of a single fallible human being.

...and moreover

PETER BARNARD

Let me be clear right at the outset (John Major writes) that no one should feel the slightest shame at being confused and disorientated by the sheer volume of terrible problems that we are all supposed to be worrying about at the moment. Bosnia, Iraq, Somalia, the Duchess of York, the Princess of Wales, Pakistanis swing bowling... the list is endless. I am as concerned as you. Yes, Pakistan are definitely up to something.

Yet this is August. You were promised a media silly season. You were entitled to expect mainstream newspaper headlines that looked as if they had been lifted from the *Daily Sport's* inside pages: instead the *Daily Sport* has been left looking as dull as ditchwater by the mainstream press. Jolly confusing.

What I want to do today is explain another, more important, matter, one that has been occupying as much as two paragraphs in the tabloids, namely the so-called sterling crisis. When we joined the EEC (as it was then called) back in the late 19th century the world was a very different place. In fact, it was not the same world that it is today. Britain had a quite independent currency which answered to nobody except the people whose care it was in, namely the Federal Reserve Bank in Washington.

As I may have said, the world has changed since then. It is a different place. For one thing, the EEC has turned into the EC (nobody can quite remember when that happened), thus removing the limits imposed by the dread

word "economic", freeing Italian politicians to say where British motorways can be built and enabling our own politicians to demonstrate their vast culinary expertise by pronouncing on the allowable ingredients in the Bavarian sausage. These great leaps forward will enable us to introduce completely free trade by the middle of the 22nd century, a moment to which I know you are all looking forward.

But in this changing different world, one thing has hardly changed at all. The pound remains a totally independent currency subject only to the people whose care it is in, namely, the Bundesbank in Bonn. The pound is strong, you have my word on that. The only trouble is that the good burghers of the Bundesbank also care for several other currencies, including something of which you may have heard called the Deutschmark. This Deutschmark (or mark for short) is a horrible currency, a real bully, and it has been mugging our pound in back alleys.

When I persuaded the late Margaret Thatcher that all the currencies in the EC (as it is now called) would have to form a vigilante group to fight the awful mark I was sure that our bacon was saved. Why then have we just raised interest rates to 27 per cent? Because when sterling climbed into the basket with all the other EC currencies I had forgotten there was a snake in there too. This snake is the ruler of the ERM. Unfortunately the head of a snake is the deadliest part and, by a strange coinci-

dence, the snake in the basket is called the Deutschmark.

So what is to be done? I have never been in favour of manipulating the money markets, a process best left to teenagers in red braces, as befits a pluralist democracy. But there are occasions when a bully has to be taught a lesson. So we have taken decisive action, as you will know from the announcement by Buckingham Palace earlier today.

You may be saying to yourself what has having a mansion in Heidelberg for the Duchess of York got to do with the sterling crisis? An understandable question, though a mite unsophisticated if I may say so with due respect. Let me say first that those who have attacked the Duchess of York for leaving Heathrow with 97 suitcases are guilty of a dreadful slur. These cases did not, as the tabloids reported, contain 4,000 bikini tops. They in fact contained 4 billion Deutschmarks.

These will be leached on to the German currency markets in exchange for pounds, thus securing the future of sterling for many years to come. I am optimistic that this move will enable us to reduce interest rates very shortly, thus restoring our competitiveness and maintaining our economic sovereignty. Indeed, that is not the only sovereignty to benefit, for I feel certain that one day the Duchess will return to these shores to be hailed for what she will undoubtedly prove to be one of the finest financial advisers this country has ever had.

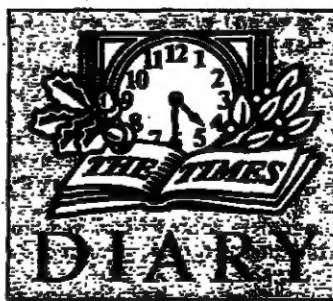
Anyone for Number 11?

AS THE pressure on sterling continues, Norman Lamont has decided he needs some fresh ideas. The chancellor is looking for a rising star from the City to bolster his Treasury advisory team. The departure to lucrative City posts of Warwick Lightfoot and Alistair Ross Goobey, two of Lamont's three economic advisers, has left a hole in the chancellor's kitchen cabinet.

Apart from his civil servants, Lamont can now rely only on Bill Robinson, formerly of the Institute of Fiscal Studies, and the political advice of David Cameron, aged 25, a former member of the Tory Central Office "brat pack". He is anxious to supplement his team with someone with hands-on market experience. According to Ross Goobey, who worked for both Nigel Lawson and Lamont (on a salary reputed to have been £54,000 a year), a pure economist is not the answer. "There are already plenty of those at the Treasury to second-guess each other. He wants someone who has direct experience of market participation."

Ross Goobey, who described himself as Lamont's bag-carrier and personal assistant, says: "Of course the City makes its views known, but its message to the chancellor can be diverted by civil servants or junior ministers. If the chancellor has someone who knows the market — having recently been part of it — the message will not become so blurred."

So far the chancellor seems to have drawn a blank, but City gossip has linked Peter Spencer, a director of Kleinwort Benson, with the post. More intriguing is the suggestion that Gavin Davies, head of invest-



ment research with Goldman Sachs, is the man for the job. If Labour had won the election, Davies had been expected to do a similar job for John Smith as chancellor. His wife, Sue Nye, spent nine years working for Neil Kinnock.

Whether or not the bugged royal phone call is a hoax, royal reporters on tabloid newspapers have no doubt that bugging is rife, particularly of the mobile phones on which their trade relies so heavily. So convinced are they that their calls are monitored by the security services that the pack have devised codenames for each other. One well-known female royal watcher in what is an almost exclusively male preserve uses the codename "the queen". Andrew Morton, however, leaves nothing to chance. He has installed a scrambler.

Troubled water

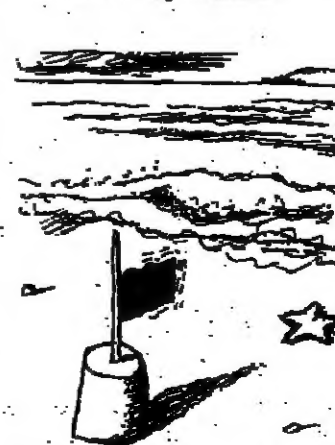
SO who watches the watchdogs? There are red faces at the National Rivers Authority, the body which polices polluters of Britain's water, following suggestions that the NRA itself is to blame for the pollution of the sea at Weston-super-Mare, which as a result has failed to win a Blue Flag for cleanliness.

The NRA was carrying out frantic tests at the weekend to discover whether its July dredging work in

the estuary of the River Axe is indeed the reason why water samples taken at Weston on August 1 failed to come up to EC standards. The test appears to have souped the river's chances of regaining its "clean beach" status, and the town authorities have little doubt that the watchdog is itself to blame.

An NRA spokeswoman says the dredging work was "routine", but concedes there is a possibility that this activity could have carried bacteria into the bathing water at the resort. An appeal is planned but don't hold your breath. The test was carried out by the NRA's own scientists.

Veteran actor Robert Mitchum, 75 this month, is the latest to rule himself out of the lead role in the BBC's film about Robert Maxwell. Instead he has flown to Zimbabwe with his wife Dorothy to film African Skies for the homely US cable television Family Channel.



Price of fame

WHAT should be a glorious celebration of the House of Windsor this autumn will go ahead, despite the royal family's recent difficul-

ties. The organisers of the Royal Anniversary Trust, marking the Queen's 40 years on the throne, report that they have sold almost all of the tickets for the pageant marking the end of the Queen's celebrations at Earl's Court in October — at up to £2,000 a head. The top-of-the-market ticket includes a dinner inspired by Anton Mostmann immediately following the pageant, billed as "The Great Event — 40 Glorious Years", which the Queen will be entertained by, including the Labour MP Glenda Jackson and the 1966 World Cup squad. Those who are feeling the pinch may find consolation in the fact that a cheaper buffet is also on offer, for which there are a few tickets left at £1,250.

Lambeth's great men

HAVING done the Lambeth Walk to such good effect in John Schlesinger's Tory party election broadcast, John Major is returning again to his old stomping ground next month. He has agreed to be the special guest at a reunion of 1960s Lambeth councillors.

Sir George Young, the environment minister, who like Major was a Lambeth councillor from 1968 to 1971, is also on the guest list. Jean Lucas, the agent who persuaded Major to stand for parliament, says: "It will be super to have him with us again after all these years. Who would have thought 20 years ago that he would come back to us as prime minister?"

Clive Jones, who was best man at the Major's wedding, and Peter Golds, who introduced John to Norma, will also be in attendance, but the reunion will not be restricted to Tory councillors. Another Lambeth veteran from the same period is Ken Livingstone. He seems unlikely to miss such an opportunity to bend the prime minister's ear.

1500



THE BALKAN TRAGEDY

Tomorrow sees the opening of the London conference on the future of what was Yugoslavia, a country now fractured into feuding communities. Seldom has a "peace" conference opened less auspiciously. Seldom has a gathering of smart-suited leaders, each with his own agenda hundreds of miles from the scene of a conflict, seemed so irrelevant to the agony of its victims. Serbian aggression against Bosnia has all but triumphed but nobody in London has an interest in admitting this. Posturing will be the order of the day.

Bosnia is not alone in its plight. It is not the only place experiencing the obscenities of civil war, population displacement, random mortaring and sniping, attacks on relief workers and political mendacity. No less atrocious for being less publicised are conflicts in Iraq, in Azerbaijan, in Georgia, in Afghanistan, in Burma, in Somalia, in Indonesia. Many one-time states in Africa are now states no more, but borderless entities in which gangs fight for control of food supplies in cities, surrounded by an anarchic bush.

Most humans not involved in these conflicts respond to them with humanity, by giving to charity. But how should liberal democratic governments respond: by sending troops, by declaring economic war on those involved, by offering advice, by moral posturing? All have been on display in Yugoslavia. The initial liberal reaction to the breakup of former communist regimes was to cheer the emergence of national identity. This enthusiasm soon gave way to ambivalence. The removal of an authoritarian regime was one thing, the removal of all central authority was another. From Kurdistan to Slovenia, from Slovakia to Somalia, foreign ministries began to talk of "viability", of the need for "interposing forces", of the importance of continued stability to a proclaimed new world order. A feature of such order was a respect for existing state boundaries.

To those holding such a thesis, the ultimate fear has come to be the degeneration of states into their warring ethnic components. This tends to cause the mass movement of refugees as a result of civil war and that horror of every central ruler, whether democratic or autocratic, partition and "Balkanisation". Yet the collapse of a longstanding supranational authority rarely ushers in a smooth transition to self-determination and democracy. It did not do so in India or in most of Africa. It did not do so in the Middle East, in South-east Asia, in the old Soviet Union, in post-communist central Europe. It has not done so in the supranational mini-empire of Tito's Yugoslavia. Partition and enforced population displacement has often proved the lesser evil to continued civil war and genocide.

Democracy needs constant grass roots sustenance. A long period in which political activity is forced to atrophy leaves no institutions in place to legitimise a new democratic authority. As a result, newly liberated citizens revert to the most elementary political instincts. They place their faith in family, in village, in ethnic and religious loyalty. They seek security from their own kind and treat others with suspicion, both those of a different language or religion and those who claim authority in a distant capital as inheritors of a corrupt elite. Authority and consent are localised. In the last resort to a boy with a machine gun. Constitutions have no force when territory must be protected and mouths fed. As in economics, so in politics, the first stage in evolution is microscopic, not macroscopic. The awful legacy of communism in the Balkans is that this first stage is having to be experienced all over again.

"Ethnic cleansing" may seem incomprehensibly cruel to West Europeans,

but it is a feature of many intrastate conflicts and of the collapse of civil authority. The dispossessed Muslims of Bosnia are joining history's most crowded queue: India's Hindus and Muslims, the Palestinians, the Cypriots, the Soviet Jews and hundreds of other groups of refugees from territories they regarded as home. Those who dispossess them merit condemnation, perhaps in Serbia's case trial and punishment. But few countries have unsullied hands and can afford to be smug about the ethnic tribulations that afflict others, least of all Britain with its record in Northern Ireland.

The best that can be hoped for the London conference is that the brutality of the Belgrade regime in consolidating "Greater Serbia" can be publicised to induce it one day to permit the return of expelled refugees to their former homes. Reports from Bosnia (and Croatia) suggest that in the short term this is wishful thinking. Most fleeing Bosnian Muslims will seek shelter and security elsewhere. The manner in which they do so may constitute a lasting threat to Serbia's security from terrorism and revanchism. Sooner or later, in Bosnia as in the Middle East, if the dispossessed cannot get restitution they will get revenge.

In the case of Yugoslavia, restitution should not yet be removed from the agenda. If President Milosevic stands down at the forthcoming elections, which is possible, some flexibility — and humanity — may yet be shown by the Serbs. A more moderate regime and a new army command might persuade some Serbian frontier communities to switch their allegiance from the bandit chiefs and their trust in civil leadership. But the truth is that they will be more likely to do so as when the grim reality of Serbia's successful aggression is acknowledged. Sooner or later winners and losers have an interest in the past being put behind them. Only then will Serbian enclaves feel secure enough to make the concessions implied by restitution: to make their communities ethnically mixed again and then diversify their democratic institutions. This will be a long haul.

There is no short cut from dictatorship to democracy; the route starts at the bottom, in rekindling a sense of personal identity and security. Citizens must be able to recognise the integrity of home and hearth before they will delegate power, including the power to compromise with other groups, upwards to others. That delegation came slowly and often bloody in the political evolution of Western Europe. Frightened communities are always likely to be sceptical of centralised authority, especially communities long grown used to dictatorship.

The peoples of Yugoslavia as of most former communist states are patently nervous of making such upward delegation. The outside world can damn them as ferociously as it chooses. It will only make them even more nervous. Balkanisation may be an unappealing word. It looks dreadful on the television news, and is no less dreadful in countries where the camera still fears to tread. But Balkanisation appears in many parts of Europe and Asia to be a necessary precursor to the politics of post-communism. Dozens of former states are now "deconstructing", splintering into fragments, many of which are recognisable only by reference to the politics of the Middle Ages. The splintering is an agony. But there appears to be no antidote — short of reconquest by an imperial power.

Nobody at the London conference wants that. So a measure of humility might be the best policy, humility backed by charity and dispassionate advice. That way the likely failure of the conference will be the less demoralising to its victims — and the less degrading to its participants.

ORIGIN OF SPECIES

As Britain's foremost presenter of wild-life on television, Sir David Attenborough's instincts are finely honed to detect the approach of a predator. In his presidential address to this year's British Association for the Advancement of Science meeting yesterday, he called on the scientific community to see off threats to natural history and all other scientific programmes on television. They were endangered, he claimed, by possible changes in programming policy at the BBC and ITV.

As the history of the British Association itself shows, there has always been more at stake in the presentation of science to the public than simply keeping the public informed. Science promotion tends to come with a certain view of humanity and society. So less science on television could not only mean less sympathy for the scientific enterprise among the public, hence less money; it could also represent a threat to the spell science exerts over the modern imagination.

The British Association was formed in the 1830s to promote public interest in the view that the universe was static. There was no Darwinian theory of evolution, no survival of the fittest, to move the development of species along. There was certainly no difference among scientists about, in Stephen Hawking's phrase, knowing the mind of God. The British pioneers of natural history, such as Sir Richard Owen, made much of the discovery of dinosaur bones as evidence that God had directly created life in all its complexity.

The British Association's original objective was not to refute the Darwinians, who were not a serious force in science for another 20 years. It was to uphold the concept of a stable God-given order, both in nature and in politics, especially applying it to contemporary society in order to counter the revolutionary temptations of the age. The God who could make (and by divine command, unmake) the dinosaurs and other hierarchies of living

things also by implication made the monarchy and the stable British class system. Therefore, came the hidden message, trifle with it (and Him) at your peril.

This prevailing view was famously displaced by Thomas Huxley, who clashed with one of Owen's chief supporters, Bishop Wilberforce, at another celebrated British Association meeting in 1860. Though Wilberforce was present as a distinguished amateur scientist, Huxley claimed, tendentiously, to have refuted him as a spokesman for organised religion. This — or Huxley's later embellishment of it — marked the moment when Darwinism was enthroned at the pinnacle of scientific orthodoxy.

To the public 130 years on, Darwin's concept of the survival of the fittest remains unchallenged. Evolution has become what the philosopher Mary Midgley has called an alternative religion. But the years since Huxley's take-over of the British Association have not settled the argument. There are many biologists who admit that Darwinism's theory has grave limitations as an explanation of diversity and discreteness of living species. And evolution is a hypothesis which cannot be demonstrated by a repeatable experiment. As Sir Peter Medawar wrote: "There are philosophical and methodological objections to evolutionary theory."

So far these doubts have failed to change popular attitudes. But before the close of this year's conference, a popular attack on the "myth" of Darwinism, Richard Milton's *The Facts of Life*, will be in the bookshops. It is a readable digest for the layman of doubts the experts have themselves expressed. This could shake the "religion" of evolution as much as *Honest to God* shook popular Christianity 30 years ago. All the doubters about Darwinism lack is a convincing new theory: they cannot go back to Sir Richard Owen's of 150 years ago. The search for a better theory is now wide open. Sir David Attenborough may be assured that the search will make fascinating television.

Call for UK help for Somaliland

From Mr Alan Michael, MP for Cardiff South and Penarth (Labour)

Sir, As Sir Philip Goodhart points out in his letter of August 20, Britain has particular links with Somaliland, formerly the northern province of Somalia. It was a British colony from 1884 until 1960 and declared itself the independent Republic of Somaliland in May 1991. The interim government there has a chance of success, but it is faced by a cruel dilemma.

Without cash it cannot develop its institutions amid the devastation left after the war waged on it by former President Barre; but until these institutions exist it is told that it cannot be given the cash and development aid which follows on the recognition of a government.

If Somaliland is not helped now, it will descend into the same hopeless chaos that characterises the south. The difference is that the images may never reach our television screens because the suffering of the north has never caught the imagination of the media.

Britain has a special responsibility, not just because we were the colonial power. Somalis who have shown loyalty to Britain through two world wars are puzzled and distressed by its failure to repay the debt by helping the administration in the north to become self-sufficient.

In the other three provinces, the best chance seems to be through the fragile coalition of positive forces which General Aided has brought together. And the aid organisations have rightly stressed the need to flood Somalia with food: it is the lack of food that gives such power and motivation to the "men with guns".

All who have the interests of Somalia at heart must hope that the United Nations will heed the advice of your August 20 editorial. But there is a sting in its tail, when you compare Britain's position with that of Italy. The fact is that Italy has taken an interest in the politics of the south, but sadly that involved bolstering the cruel regime of President Barre against the best interests of the north.

Having stood aside during the blood-letting of the "hidden war" Britain can now make some amends by making the lead in helping the Republic of Somaliland move back from the brink and show the rest of Somalia the way forward. Let the UN continue to do this if it must, but let Britain now play a responsible role, in the name of humanity.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN MICHAEL
(Chairman, All-party parliamentary group on Somalia),
House of Commons,
August 21.

French referendum

From Mr Graham Defries

Sir, Your leader of August 17, "Long French shadow", fails to identify a very obvious choice open to the prime minister in his continuing difficulties over the Maastricht treaty. Whilst you are right to argue that a French "No" vote would probably signal an end to the treaty, and possibly to the exchange-rate mechanism in its present form, you omit to mention that John Major could himself call a referendum in Britain to determine the will of the people.

Since when has a British prime minister had to formulate a policy towards a treaty on the basis of a decision made by the people of France?

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM DEFRIES
(Treasurer),
Campaign for a British Referendum,
6 Station Road, NZ1,
August 17.

From Sir Anthony Meyer

Sir, The Tory sceptics who, according to Robin Oakley's report today, will be urging the French to reject the Maastricht treaty (and in so doing making common cause with the extreme left and the extreme right) will find rather more of their compatriots in the field urging the French not to betray their great European tradition and reminding them how disastrous it would be if Lady Thatcher's ideas of unbridled nationalism were to wreck the vital but fragile compromise enshrined in the Maastricht treaty.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MEYER
(Policy Director),
European Movement UK,
Europe House,
158 Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1,
August 17.

Forestry's future

From the Chief Executive of the Woodland Trust

Sir, In your report, "Growing despair over future of forestry" (August 19), a Timber Growers United Kingdom survey concludes that almost three quarters of woodland owners in Britain regard the Forestry Commission's revised woodland grant scheme (WGS) as "disappointing or irrelevant".

While those primarily involved in timber growing may hold that view, I suggest that a different reaction may be forthcoming from organisations such as ours (we own nearly 17,000 acres of broadleaved woodland in Britain) which give a higher priority

Pollution trap of new land registers

From the Chief Executive of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Sir, The government plans for setting up registers of land potentially contaminated by industrial and other pollution are, in our view, inadequate.

The revised proposals recently announced (report, July 29) will give local authorities 15 months to compile registers of all land on which one of a number of potentially contaminating processes may have taken place in the past. There will be no money and no time for site investigation.

Once listed, a site cannot be de-listed but only, at best, moved to a second "contaminated land" register. A careful authority will naturally err on the safe side in listing more, not less land, because it could face legal action through failure to list a site.

Here are the consequences. First, the recent hard-won success in bringing back some development to cleared urban sites will be reversed. There is a limit to how many car-parks we need and there will be few other uses for urban land on the registers. All development pressure will once again be for new, green-field sites.

Secondly, most small businesses

depend on their building assets — either work premises or owners' homes — to secure bank borrowings for working capital and investment.

If the council bureaucrat's pen draws the boundary on one side of the businessman's workshop, all will be well. If on the other side, the bank may rapidly call in its lendings because the building value will have collapsed overnight as the first register is published. In the Black Country 50 per cent of land is said to be liable for listing: how many small businesses there will face this credit crunch?

Thirdly, homeowners on registered sites could find their homes unsaleable, even in an active market, and unmortgageable any time.

Mr Major and Mr Lamont are searching for signs of economic recovery. They want to see a renewal of confidence and activity, both amongst small businesses and in the housing market. Do they understand that the Secretary of State for the Environment is pointing his blunderbuss at their feet?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PATTISON,
Chief Executive,
The Royal Institution of
Chartered Surveyors,
12 Great George Street,
Parliament Square, SW1.

Rights and freedoms

From Sir Basil Hall

Sir, In your leader on "British rights" (August 15) you comment that I used to be against incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into United Kingdom law, but have changed my mind. This is right, but it is not because of the length of time cases take in Strasbourg, as you appear to imply.

The European Commission of Human Rights, of which I have been the British member since 1985, has been very conscious of the need to reduce the time which it takes to deal with cases. Its procedures and working methods have been continually under review and radical changes have been made, in particular an extended use of committees and chambers. Many final decisions are reached within a year.

I accept, however, that if a good case is made that there has been a violation of the convention, and the case is one of the proportionately few that go to the European Court of Human Rights, the processes required by the convention (including the opportunity to effect a settlement) do take time. They do not now take the eight years which you suggest as a possibility.

The principal reason for my change of mind is this. Judges of the United Kingdom are, mainly as a result of the extended use of judicial review, continually examining the validity of decisions and acts of public authorities. It is likely that before long they, alone among the judges of member states of the Council of Europe, will be unable to apply the convention in making their judgments but will have to leave that aspect to be examined later by the Commission and, if need be, by the European Court of Human Rights.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL HALL,
Woodlands, Danes Way,
Oxshott, Surrey.

Poor play?

From Mr Michael Meyer

Sir, If your drama critic, Jeremy Kingston, thinks it is a sign of a poor play that it contains "any scene in which a character bends tenderly over another and bids her (him) rest" (Life & Times, August 1) he must have a low opinion of *Peer Gynt*, *Ghosts*, *The Father*, *Creditors* and *Danton's Death* — for a start.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL MEYER,
4 Montagu Square, W1.

Public service quality

From Mr Tom Bassett

Sir, George Binney, in his letter of August 19, says his company's study shows that BS 5750 (which sets practical standards for quality systems to ensure products or services meet the customer's requirements) and ISO 9000 (its international equivalent) are the wrong places to start continuously improving quality.

I cannot entirely agree. BS 5750 has the advantage for the local authority that the contractor, in obtaining registration, has satisfied its external accreditation body that it meets the quality standards it has set itself.

It would certainly be hard for the local authority to measure or take

VAT on listed buildings

From Colonel Geoffrey S. Powell

Sir, As this Micawber-like government ignores Anatole Kaletsky's excellent advice (e.g., in "A taste of their medicine", August 20), I sign yet another large cheque for repairs to this small but ancient house, the sight of which gladdens not just my family's heart but also that of the currency-bearing foreign tourists who admire this historic high street.

The abolition of the 17.5 per cent VAT imposition on repairs to listed buildings would not only give a boost to the country's builders, but also help secure the survival of one of the country's most valuable assets — its glorious buildings.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY POWELL,
2 North End Terrace,
High Street, Chipping Campden,
Gloucestershire.

Hedging bets

From Mr D. J. Gleeson

Sir, I have today received a City analyst's circular which states: "The term 'sell' means that in our view the share price is likely to underperform the market by more than 10 per cent in the next three months... It is not an assessment of medium or long-term value." Could there be a more perfect illustration of the fundamentally flawed and damaging nature of the City of London's approach to British industry?

Yours faithfully,
DERMOT GLEESON
(Chief Executive),
M. J. Gleeson Group plc,
Harewood House, London Road,
North Cheam, Sutton, Surrey,
August 20.

Business letters, page 19

Organ donor shortage

From Mrs Audrey Watts-Osterlyng

Sir, The persistent British problem of organ donor shortage (report, August 19) does not exist in Belgium. Here they have done things the reverse way. You are automatically a donor for eyes, liver, etc., unless you inform the appropriate authorities that you do not wish this to happen and carry an appropriate card.

Most people in Britain are not against being donors; they are just too lazy to do anything about it.

Yours faithfully,
AUDREY OSTERLYNG,
Hindcaerstraat 11, Berg, Belgium.

Plastic licence wallets

From Mr Christopher Boulter

Sir, I note the correspondence from Mrs E. P. Wetherall (letter, August 13) and Mr R. J. Verge of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (letter, August 19) on whether the saving in the issue of plastic wallets for driving licences is "penny wise, pound foolish". It is entirely a matter of one's own involvement.

The DVLA may save time, trouble and expense in providing them only on a "request" basis, but courts and police will no doubt find it increasingly more difficult to read dirty, damaged or defaced licences.

At least if a licence is in its folder when it goes through the wash or falls in oil there is a chance of it remaining legible. If it is in a damaged condition I direct that the licence be sent to DVLA to deal with.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER BOULTER
(Deputy Clerk to the Justices),
Magistrates' Clerk's Office,
Law Courts, County Civic Centre,
Mold, Clwyd.

Pride in pluralism

From the Reverend Harry Hutton

Sir, I have just read in the *Church Times* that the Reverend Ralph Wilkins, priest-in-charge of Puddletown and Tolpuddle, is to be also priest-in-charge of Milborne St Andrew and Dewlish, Piddletrenthide with Plush, Alton Pancras and Piddletrenthide (Salisbury).

Who now — in Rome, Constantinople or Canterbury — can match the grandeur of Ralph's ecclesiastical title?

Yours faithfully,
HARRY HUTTON,
30 Ryland Park,
Pensby, Wirral, Merseyside,
August 21.

Croatian stance at London talks

From the Representative of the Republic of Croatia in the United Kingdom

Sir, I find repugnant the attempts at self-justification by Dr Karadzic, the leader of the Serbian community in Bosnia (letter, August 19). He cannot hide the continued massive infringement of human rights in Bosnia. Can this be the same Dr Karadzic who spent months denying that ethnic cleansing was taking place, and who sought to refute the existence of concentration camps and their bestial regimes?

Dr Karadzic's attendance at the peace conference — as well as that of Mr Milosevic, President of Serbia, and Mr Cosic, President of "Yugoslavia" — is going to be at the very least distasteful. It was Mr Cosic who promulgated the infamous "memorandum" which first enunciated the claims to a philosophical basis for the practice of ethnic cleansing now being carried out by the Serbian forces under the leadership of Mr Milosevic.

The truth is that both Croatia and Bosnia will welcome positive intervention from any international body that will restore natives of Bosnia to their rightful homes. We are all concerned that Islamic countries will be sucked into the maelstrom that will ensue if Serbian aggression is not curtailed by every means available. Substituting humanitarian aid for urgently needed peace-making activities is like giving aspirins to a seriously ill patient who could be saved only by an operation.

If the peace conference fails, I believe that there will be no alternative but for Nato forces to be deployed in the Balkans in peace-making operations. I fully understand the recent reluctance of Nato planners to commit themselves to this path, as it is essential that they demonstrate their effectiveness on the first-ever occasion that out-of-area deployment occurs.

The government of the United States, while themselves reluctant to commit troops on the ground, should contribute air power, through Nato, for selective strikes against Serbian supply lines, in order to restore the military balance in the region. The much talked-of necessity for extensive Western ground forces to be deployed in Bosnia could be reduced by lifting the arms embargo on the battered republics.

It is impossible to say to what degree Dr Karadzic's opinions are representative of the views of the Serbian community in Bosnia at the present time. I would like to extend the hand of friendship to those members of that community who are genuinely committed to a vision of Bosnia and Croatia where old enmities are forgotten and where communities work together to guarantee prosperity rather than disease and death for their children.

Dr Karadzic's letter is yet another example of his attempts to buy time for the present Serbian regime and its genocidal policy. In my view, there should be an international war crimes tribunal at which all the Serbian hierarchy are brought to account for their deeds.

Yours faithfully,
DRAGO STAMBUK
(Representative of the Republic of Croatia in the United Kingdom),
18-21 Jermyn Street, SW1,
August 24.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

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OBITUARIES

SIR JOSEPH WELD

Colonel Sir Joseph Weld, OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, 1964-84, died on August 14 aged 82. He was born September 22, 1909.

AFTER serving as adjutant of the 4th Bn the Dorset Regiment, Joseph Weld was from 1942-43 the first Territorial officer to be on the permanent staff of the Staff College, Camberley. Later in the war, as GSO1 to Lord Louis Mountbatten, he made several journeys to liaise between South-East Asia Command and the War Cabinet. But perhaps even more dangerous was his visit to France after D-Day, when escorting Edwin Mountbatten, who was visiting field hospitals behind the advancing allied armies. General Eisenhower flew them over in his Flying Fortress, but Lady Mountbatten, determined to get near the front line, transferred to a small aircraft. On the way to Nijmegen they strayed over the German lines at 400 feet, but after one engine was shot out they managed to hedgehop back to safety.

After the war he reformed the 4th Bn, the Dorset Regiment, as a territorial battalion, and commanded it until 1951, when he became honorary colonel.

Although born in Warwickshire, Joseph Weld succeeded in the Lulworth Castle estates in Dorset in 1935, and subsequently impressed his personality on all facets of Dorset life.



He was a real Christian in the best sense of the word, in that his life was devoted to the well-being of all around him. Despite strong principles he was never censorious. A man of great humility, he inspired complete confidence and devotion in all who met or worked with him.

Although a staunch Roman Catholic, he also worked hard for Church of England causes in the Salisbury diocese, including the Dorset Historic Churches Trust. His own family chapel at Lulworth, constructed in 1786, was the first Roman Catholic church allowed to be built after the Reformation, and then only on condition that it did not look like a church. The result was an architectural gem, built in the form of a Greek temple.

On being appointed lord lieutenant in 1964, he threw himself into county life so enthusiastically that in one year he is reputed to have had only three dinners at home. He was closely associated with many county organisations including the Order of St John, the Red Cross, the Royal British Legion, the Scouts and the Dorset Association of Youth Clubs, and he chaired the Wessex Regional Health Authority in the 1970s. He was president of the Dorset Health Trust which co-ordinated and built the Wiltonbourne hospital, the Dorset children's centre and a 26 bed hospice and respite centre in Dorchester which, when completed, will bear the name Joseph Weld House.

Weld had a remarkable ability to remember names of all whom he met. As chairman of the police committee, he was famous for addressing officers in the force correctly.

He was chairman of the Wareham magistrates for many years and, some 40 years ago, a gipsy, aggrieved at being fined, said: "I put a curse on you, and you will die." Weld replied in his usual courteous way: "Thank you, madam. I'll take a chance on that."

He is survived by his son Wilfred and four daughters.

JOHN MARSH



(Henry) John Marsh, CBE, former director-general of the British Institute of Management and wartime prisoner of the Japanese, died on August 19 aged 79. He was born on August 17, 1913.

UNTIL his virtual retirement ten years ago, John Marsh was the recognised voice of British management. As a force behind the Institute of Personnel Management, 1947-49, the Industrial (Welfare) Society, 1950-61 and the British Institute of Management (BIM), 1961-75, he was not so much a captain of industry as its chief coach, inspiring and guiding its performance from the sidelines.

His years at the BIM were the most famous. Taking over when the Institute was struggling financially, he first rationalised and reformed its organisation, then launched a personal crusade through British industry.

Not only did he secure the backing of companies. He persuaded some of the country's most influential names to join his council. Long before he left (as assistant chairman) in the mid 1970s, he had won for the BIM a national significance.

Far from retiring, Marsh then became a management consultant and developed his role as a leading industrial guru - writing, speaking and travelling round the world. He lectured in more than 50 countries, expounding his theories on management and success.

He was passionate about human relations and the need for a united, happy workforce. He fought to bring down the class barriers in Britain, inveighing against the destructive divisions between shop floor and staff - divisions which, he said, crippled this country's progress.

He argued against the British "stiff upper lip" and called for "more cards and characters" in business. Though a pioneer of the modern business school, he believed that young men learned best from their own mistakes and through practical experience.

But he also insisted on observing strict business ethics. There was no place for the "cult of the self-made man".

dominated by ruthless ambition. He was warning British industry 30 years ago that it had to develop more specialisation and modern work practices in the face of growing competition from Europe and elsewhere.

Marsh was far from being a woolly-minded idealist and tub-thumper. He was also a tough-minded pragmatist and "fixer".

All this reflected his own background. Although born into a farming family from Dorset, he grew up in the entrepreneurial society of Shanghai, where his father opened a large motor business. Young John (his family always called him Jack) went with his twin brother to a mission school in China, before boarding at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Winton, Dorset, by the death of his mother while he was there, however, he left at 16

without a single qualification. Back in Shanghai, he worked for two years in his father's firm, then returned here as an apprentice with Austin Cars. He quickly attracted the attention of Herbert Austin when he criticised some work practices at Longbridge and, after being recommended for his cheek, was put in charge of the apprentice training programme, aged 22.

Commissioned into the Territorial Army, in the Royal Army Service Corps, he was at Dunkirk from where he was rescued by the Thames steamer *Royal Daffodil*. Eighteen months later he was dispatched to Singapore, just in time to be captured by the Japanese. He was thus present, he wryly remarked, at two of the biggest military defeats in British history.

The next three years had a formative influence on John

Marsh. After spending some time in the notorious Changi jail, he was sent to work on the still more infamous Burma railway. By the time he was freed in October 1945, Major Marsh was down to two-thirds of his normal weight. He had proved himself a survivor, however - one of only 180 out of the 500 in his unit.

Colleagues think that this gave him a sense of his own destiny. The experience certainly made him very conscious of the gulf between British officers and their men - although all ranks were herded together in the prison camps. It was to underlie much of his future thinking.

His career took a different course after the war, away from the engineering side of industry and into the developing area of man management. He became a BOAC personnel officer, then joined the Institute of Personnel Management.

His recreations in *Who's Who* included "idling". But the daunting list of his activities also shown gave the lie to this. Among his many part-time roles, he was at various times honorary administrator of the Duke of Edinburgh's Study Conference and a member of the National Coal Board and the BBC General Advisory Council. He served on the courts of Cranfield and Surrey universities, was a former governor of King's College Hospital and in 1968 was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Science at Bradford.

None of these gave him greater pleasure, however, than his position as the founder-member of the Far East Prisoners Club of London. His membership number was "1", a sign of his status. He bitterly opposed the visit to Britain by the Emperor Hirohito of Japan in the early 1970s.

His many publications included a pamphlet on *The Pursuit of God* in which he explained his own religious convictions. He abandoned the formal established Church, however, ten years ago, dismayed by its failure to oppose the Falklands War.

John Marsh is survived by his wife Mary and by their two daughters and two sons, one of whom, Matthew, is a Young Vic actor and the other, Jon, a pop singer.

WILLIAM TAYLOR

William Taylor, chairman of the United States Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, died of a heart attack on August 20 aged 53 after a stomach operation at Fairfax, Virginia.

WHEN William Taylor was sworn in last October as the 15th head of the agency that insures every bank account in America up to \$100,000, he took on the job at a critical time. The FDIC was battered by hundreds of bank failures and had run out of money to protect depositors. Experts were predicting the possible collapse of the whole financial system unless Congress could be persuaded to provide a huge influx of public money.

Taylor also faced pressure from the White House, where President Bush was urging that banks should be freed from regulations and encouraged to make more loans to get the country out of recession. Taylor, with the Savings and Loan debacle fresh in his mind, resisted the argument. He did, however, act to make it easier for banks to challenge examinations that they considered too tough and discouraging to lending, and told investigators that the agency would not tolerate regulators who were too harsh on banks.

In the first days of his tenure, Taylor pushed Congress hard, winning a \$70 billion loan to bail out the Bank Insurance Fund. Turning his attention to the banks, he won approval in May from the FDIC board to increase insurance premiums to protect depositors by an average of 22 per cent. That decision was a narrow one, reached on Taylor's casting vote, and was taken in the face of intensive lobbying by bankers and the Bush Administration, who insisted that the worst of the crisis was over, and that the increased premiums would eat into their profits.

Taylor confided to his wife on the eve of the vote that he felt "enormous pressure everywhere". After the job was done, he forecast, he might well be pumping gasoline. With his death, and the prospect that no successor will be

appointed until next year, the future of the increased premiums is now in doubt. One of Taylor's priorities was trying to resolve the problems of ailing banks without liquidating them. He often talked of "bank hospitals" in which a staff of bankers would take over weak institutions on behalf of the government, nursing them back to health before their sale. Failing the introduction of such a system, he sometimes bailed out institutions that others insisted would have been less expensive just to sell or close.

A notable example was Crossland Savings, New York's largest savings bank, in which Taylor decided to invest \$1.2 billion. After walking through Brooklyn, he had decided that closing the institution would have a devastating effect on the local economy. His approach won him few friends. Politicians began accusing the FDIC of delaying the seizure of scores of banks until after the presidential election.

He was the American representative in London last year co-ordinating the worldwide seizure of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. "Of all the regulators I have known during nearly 31 years," Henry Gonzalez, chairman of the House of Representatives banking committee, said, "Bill Taylor stands out pre-eminently as the man who stood up to the most powerful political and financial forces."

Taylor is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters.



JOHN BUNFORD

John Farrant Bunford, actuary and former chief executive of National Provident Institution, has died aged 91. He was born on June 4, 1901.

JOHN Bunford will be remembered especially for leading the return of the Institute of Actuaries to Staple Inn in 1955, following the skilful restoration of the original building, devastated by bomb damage in August 1944. The celebration was attended by acrobats world-wide, and his capabilities in orchestrating, and hosting the occasion, coupled with his unique charm and humour, ensured its success. It was fitting that he should be the first president to wear the coveted badge of office - a gift from former presidents - and the one to obtain the Institute's Grant of Arms.

Bunford was educated at Christ's Hospital and St Catherine's College, Cambridge. His early actuarial career was spent at the Scottish Amicable and, later, the Royal Exchange Assurance, where he qualified as a fellow in 1930. Two years later he joined NPI, and succeeded Henry Melville as manager and actuary in 1947. He retired from executive duties in 1964, and continued as a non-executive director until 1985. His stewardship covered the difficult years of post-war development, a period of substantial change and expansion of life insurance and pensions business. The growth of NPI's business during that time led him inevitably to redeveloping the company's century-old head office in the City, and to the commencement shortly afterwards of its Tunbridge Wells administration - itself one day to become the head office, as well as the town's largest single employer outside the public sector.

His business career was punctuated by high office in the life insurance industry, including chairmanship of the Life Offices Association and of the investment protection committee of the then British Insurance Association. While president of the Institute of Actuaries in 1954-56 he frequently represented the profession abroad, notably at the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Norwegian, Swedish and Swiss Actuarial Societies. He was a truly gentle man, balanced in judgment, but resolute in following it through. His wife, Penelope, predeceased him. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

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ARTHUR DAVISON

Arthur Davison, CBE, conductor and violinist, died on August 23 of cancer aged 74. He was born in Montreal in 1918.

ARTHUR Davison, who emigrated to England from Canada in 1948, became a force in British music where the education of children and the popularisation of the classics were concerned. He worked indefatigably and enthusiastically to interest the young in music and to make sure that interest continued when they grew up. He conducted many recordings of mainstream orchestral works on the Classics for Pleasure label in the 1960s and 70s. For this he was awarded a CBE in 1974. He also earned himself a Gold Disc from EMI in 1977 for the sale of a million records.

Perhaps his most important post was as director of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales, where he carried on the high standards set by its founder and long serving conductor, Clarence Raybould. He obviously enjoyed his work in the Principality and conducted an investiture concert in the presence of the Prince of Wales in 1969. He was also a governor and lecturer at the Welsh College of Music and Drama from 1973.

Davison's other sphere of interest began in 1956 when he formed, and became artistic director of, the Virtuosi of



England, a group of superb instrumentalists that began to record for EMI's bargain-priced Classics for Pleasure label. In 1957 he started his working relationship of some eight years with the London Philharmonic Orchestra of which he was, as a fine violinist, at first deputy leader.

Later he got many chances to conduct the orchestra, especially on tour, and made his mark as a confident of orchestral musicians.

He made many records with the LPO, including music by Hoddinott and Mathias, two composers with strong Welsh connections. He also showed his practical interest in promoting music among the young by starting the Arthur Davison Concerts for Children in London in 1966. At these his close knowledge of the mainstream repertoire, allied to his ebullient personality, created an outstanding success.

Davison began playing the violin at the age of three, showing an inborn talent. By the age of 12 he was giving regular recitals and was marked out for an appreciable career as a prodigy.

He studied at McGill University before coming to London after the war on a scholarship to further his studies at the Royal Academy of Music, where he worked with Albert Sammons and Paul Beard. Davison became a fellow of the RAM in 1966.

In 1977 he conducted a Jubilee Concert at Fairfield Hall, Croydon. He also enjoyed conducting ballet scores. He was guest conductor with the Royal Danish Ballet in 1964 and worked occasionally with the New York City Ballet on his visits across the Atlantic.

JEFF PORCARO

Jeff Porcaro, drummer with the Grammy Award winning American rock band Toto, died of an apparent allergic reaction to pesticides he was using in his Los Angeles garden on August 5 aged 38.

JEFF Porcaro, his brother, Steve, Bobby Kimball, Steve Lukather, David Paich and David Hungate were Los Angeles session musicians when they formed Toto and released their first album in 1977.

Toto's hits included "Hold the Line" in 1977, and

"Rosanna" and "Africa" in 1982. In 1983, the group dominated the music industry Grammy Awards show by winning in six categories.

Eventually the group included a third Porcaro brother, Mike (their father was jazz percussionist Joe Porcaro). At the time of his death, Jeff Porcaro had just returned from a family holiday in Florida and the band was scheduled to begin rehearsals for a concert tour.

He is survived by his wife, Susan, and their three young sons.



AUGUST 25 ON THIS DAY 1930

There were the usual thrills and spills in this race on the old Alfa Circuit in N. Ireland. It was won by the brilliant Italian Tazio Nuvolari, but what catches the eye also is the clutch of legendary racers of the 1920s and 1930s taking part. Malcolm Campbell, Lord Howe, Sir Henry (Tim) Birkin, Kaye Don, Brian Lewis and behind the wheel of a very large Bentley, E.R. Hall.

gether for many laps and Campbell and Nuvolari (Alfa Romeo) rarely varied their separating distance of about 100 yards. Rampton and Minola (O.M.), the Alvis team, and the two Mercedes made other groups, but the three Talbos, which in past races have travelled in safety and immediate procession, became separated because Brian Lewis showed a greater turn of speed than was expected and left his colleagues well behind. There were also the tiny Austins, always popular with the Belfast crowd. Class lap records were broken in rapid succession. Campbell and Nuvolari thrice in the first hour raised the lap record for Class E, travelling on one occasion at an average speed of 75.31 miles an hour, exactly the same speed as that put up by Birkin in the same lap. The chances of a Bentley victory were already faint, although Birkin was driving with great skill and determination.

At 1 o'clock the rain, long expected and long deferred, began to fall in sheets, and there was a swift change in the respective speeds of the faster drivers. The Italians on the Alfa Romoes and Birkin and Moir on Bentleys made little difference in their average rates. There was no Carracola to show a special and somewhat odd liking for rain, but there were many who did not permit dislike to interfere with the business in hand. Peacock (Les-Francis) was taken by his car into a butcher's shop at Comber and was compelled to retire as the front axle was badly bent. The next accident - there were very few - was to Kaye Don. Near Ballysodagh he skidded into the kerb and turned over. The mechanic and Don were held under the car, but the former was able to extricate himself. The car caught fire at once, throwing flames 50ft into the air. The mechanic got assistance from a nearby first aid post and released Don just in time to save his life. The rain came again, but it did not alter the inevitable result, and the three Alfa Romoes finished victors.

MOTOR RACING

The ninth Royal Automobile Club Tourist Trophy Race, and the third to be run over the Arts Circuit, Belfast, was won on Saturday by Signor T. Nuvolari driving a 1,750 cc. supercharged Alfa Romeo car. His average speed was 70.88 miles an hour. Signor Campari, driving a similar Alfa Romeo, was second at an average speed of 70.82 miles an hour. He was 16 seconds behind the winner. The third was Signor Vazari, also in an Alfa Romeo. His speed was 70.31 miles an hour. These three drivers also won the team prize. The fourth car was a supercharged 8-cylinder front-wheel drive Alvis driven by Mr Cyril Paul. His average speed was 69.61 miles an hour.

There were 36 starters. The first group to leave the pits were four Bentleys in Class C and four Alfa Romoes in Class E. The first away when the flag dropped was Campari, but very early in the first lap Captain H.R.S. Birkin (supercharged 4½-litre Bentley) took the lead, and he averaged over 74 miles an hour for the first circuit. He was a popular figure with the crowd, which evidently expected spectacular driving, even though Carracola was not present to act as an additional incentive. For the first two hours there was good weather and there was no sun to handicap the drivers. Birkin and Moir (Bentleys) were close to

Play area keeps children's memory alive

By RONALD FAUX

A TRAGEDY in which two boys drowned in a canal for want of somewhere better to play was the spur to building the Leroy and James play park in Clarendon Road, Hulme. The recreation area. Named in memory of the two children, lies in the shadow of derelict blocks of council flats in a run-down district of Manchester, scarred by graffiti and vandalism. When contractors' machines first appeared on the site they were immediately attacked but since work was completed a year ago, the play park has been mercifully free from problems.

Local parents believe this could be because the deaths of Leroy and James are still remembered and because local children were asked to help plan the park. A bus was hired and took a group of them around play areas in the northwest. They were then invited to design their ideal playground, which cost three times the budget set aside by the planning authority. Local tenants began fundraising, organising collections in local pubs and clubs and applying for extra grants. The result is an immensely popular play area created around a small, attractively landscaped hill. Central features are a slide and an ingenious triangular climbing frame of stout ropes.



Local keep a neighbourhood watch on the play area, reporting day to day incidents that may need looking into. An adjoining play space for the under-fives is planned, paid for with money raised by council tenants and topped up by funds from City Challenge. The scheme marks several years of campaigning by parents and a venture in which local people, the council and the children have successfully co-operated.

Meanwhile in the centre of Hulme, the old Hippodrome theatre has been converted into what is claimed to be the first cinema in Europe dedicated to African and Caribbean culture. The Nia Centre, near being a Kiswahili word meaning purpose, aims to promote a positive image, enjoyment and informed awareness of African and Caribbean culture. This extended a strong 20 year tradition in Man-

chester but when the cultural diversity policy of the Arts Council insisted that black achievement could not develop without the buildings in which to do so, the idea of the Nia Centre was launched. On the stage where George Formby and before him a host of Victorian music hall stars once performed, there now appear more exotic sounding artists such as Burning Spear, Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers, the Bhundu Boys and the Mystic Revellers from Jamaica.

The old theatre, last used by the BBC as a radio studio, has been converted into a multi-purpose auditorium for cabaret, exhibitions, boxing matches, cinema, conferences and conventional productions. The ornamental plaster work of the grade 2 listed building presented the architects, Mills Beaumont Leaver, with quite a challenge. One of the main points of the brief was to work within the symbolic colours of black, yellow, red and green. They have been designed into the scheme in a theatre which has so much of the ornamentation, cherubs and the like, associated with colonialism but which had to be preserved. George Mills, the architect, said:

Into the fly tower, which occupies one third of the theatre's total space, two extra floors have been lowered and suspended to house offices, a canteen, rehearsal rooms and sound-proof workshops.

Latest wills

Commander Andrew Nigel Baird, of Hambleton, Hampshire, Royal Navy Weapons Engineer, and a member of the British Aid team in 1966, becoming British slalom champion in 1969, left estate valued at £180,138 net.

Mr Deran Ewart Basham, of London SE3, left estate valued at £535,602 net. He left £12,000, some effects and half the residue to personal legatees, and half the residue to The Miriam and Anzin Eseloff Charitable Trust, with the wish that they make every possible endeavour to publish the memoirs of his father Samuel Zorian, which he has translated.

Sylvia Whitfield Hingley, of Headbourne Worthy, Hampshire, left estate valued at £715,008 net. She left a number of personal bequests, £1,000 each to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists Trust, the RSPB, the Kensington Day Centre, London, and the Woodland Trust, and the residue equally between the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council and World Wildlife Fund.

Vivienne Gower Mylne, of Oxford, left estate valued at £231,942 net. She left £32,500 and some effects to personal legatees, her home and books not otherwise bequeathed to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, her collection of books printed before 1850 to Oxford University, for the library of the Taylor Institute, and her computer, printer and associated software for the Voltaire Foundation, all her Chinese effects to Durham University, for the

oriental Museum, all royalties from any of her books or tape recordings to the University of Kent, Canterbury, towards the purchase of books relating to the study of French literature, £300 to the Sponsorship Department of the Save the Children Fund, for the benefit of Nellie Dadabhey Tangri, and the residue to Oxford.

Other estates (net before tax) include:

Mr James Bracegirdle, of Menai Bridge, Gwynedd - £623,362.

Mr George Edward Caley, of Paul, North Humber-side - £521,906.

Mr Emile Edmund Chappleton, of Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire - £771,904.

Mr Reginald Ernest Chignell, of Barking, Essex - £865,091.

Mr John Wybrans Hamilton, of London W1 - £816,116.

Veru Jane Johnson, of Brighton, East Sussex - £761,173.

Mr John Wilfred Thomas Lilly, of Chesham Bois, Buckinghamshire - £834,624.

Mr John Malcolm Lumscombe, of Yelverton, Devon - £784,508.

Mrs Edith Gabrielle Pilkington, of Fordingbridge, Hampshire - £811,624.

Mr Francis Arthur Grace Reed, of Iford, Lewes, East Sussex - £630,403.

Mr Charles Claude Taylor, of Carbis Bay, St Ives, Cornwall - £627,868.

Attenborough says science on television under threat

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE government's reforms of broadcasting threatened to "castrate" the BBC and turn serious scientific documentaries into an endangered species, Sir David Attenborough warned the Association for the Advancement of Science in Southampton yesterday.

Sir David, this year's president of the association, was strongly critical of changes both in the BBC and in commercial television. From next year, he said, "no serious science programmes will be shown on independent television at times that most people will be able to see them", while the BBC was being "gravely eroded, the morale of its staff seriously damaged, and the very things that gave it its unique stature and strength destroyed".

Sir David, a former controller of BBC2, said television documentaries formed a significant part of most people's understanding of science and natural history. With audiences of two to three million for a solidly scientific programme, and as

BBC must be cut in size. It would reduce programme output by a quarter and replace it with programmes made by small independent units.

"As a way of reducing costs this decision seems extremely questionable. Many of these units would spend a lot of their time doing nothing, and their costs would reflect that. There is no evidence whatever that competition in broadcasting has ever reduced costs, and a great deal to show that it significantly increases them," he said.

The BBC would meanwhile lose the hard-won expertise of producers, cameramen, film editors and technical staff who would be forced to leave. "The accountants have moved into production offices and in an attempt to make everyone cost conscious are insisting that even the tiniest action, such as taking a book from a library, should be costed and logged, a system that in itself has required the setting up of a new bureaucracy," he said. Training courses had been scrapped and the world's best picture library sold off.

As for independent television, the consequences of deregulation had yet to be fully felt. The ITV network was still using existing stockpiles of programmes. But the new administrator of the ITV schedules had said that no programme would be shown in the evenings before 10.30 or 11pm unless it could command a minimum guaranteed audience of at least 8 million. This meant, he said, that no serious science programme would be shown on ITV at times when most people could see them.

Science, Sir David said, enriches our lives, its excitement part of the reward of being alive on the brink of the 21st century. There was a huge and growing appetite to learn more about science and its findings. New broadcasting technology, such as satellites, cable and video recorders, offered new opportunities so one might suppose that science programmes would be increasing both in number and kind. The government's actions, however, threatened to do just the reverse.

Conference reports, page 3
Leading article, page 11



Attenborough: popular demand for science

many as 12-13 million for natural history, they reached a much wider audience than serious newspapers.

The view that the BBC was too wasteful and bureaucratic dominated government thinking. For a total income of £1.511 million — less than the £1.671 million earned from advertising by ITV and Channel Four — the BBC ran two television networks, four radio networks and local radio as well. "That hardly sounds like inefficiency and wastefulness to me," Sir David said.

Nevertheless, the government had decreed that the



Miami havoc: a fallen petrol station sign and a damaged car were among the "storm litter" that helped to make impassable many of Miami's devastated streets

Premature baby amazes doctors

Continued from page 1

a fantastic day for us. It's a day we've both been waiting for. When I first saw him I was so shocked. We were told there was no chance at all but we couldn't give up hope. He was crying and kicking even then and I knew he'd live.

"There were times when I thought he'd never survive. But he's proved he's a little fighter. During the first few weeks of his life we had to buy him dolls' clothes from toy shops because all the normal baby clothes were far too large. We are just glad he's pulled through."

Her husband said: "Right from the start nobody really expected him to live. In the early days the doctors were even talking about turning the life-support machine off. But Brett just kept fighting. He's proved he's got a real will to live and when we eventually get him home we're going to show him all the love we can."

Doctors said Brett was being fed by a drip through his nose and still needed much care. Professor Malcolm Levene, a consultant in charge of the baby unit at Leeds, said: "I am very

pleased that Brett has survived. It reflects the dedication shown by staff at the hospital.

"If he had been born any earlier, he would never have had a chance. Every organ is extremely underdeveloped so we had to take total control of him and build him up. He is not in danger from any major problem now. I am confident he will live a normal life."

According to the *Guinness Book of Records* the world's smallest ever baby was born in South Shields, Tyne and Wear, in 1938. Marion Chapman weighed 10oz and was fed hourly through a fountain pen with a mixture of brandy, glucose and water.



Battle begins: baby Brett when he was one day old

She lived to the age of 45.

The next smallest baby was Tyler Davidson, a twin, born in Nottingham City Hospital in June this year weighing 11oz and six inches long. He astounded doctors by battling for life but died seven weeks later. His brother Stephen, who weighed 2lb 2oz at birth, went home to Lincoln last month.

The world's most premature baby to survive was born in Ottawa, Canada, in May 1987. James Elgin Gill weighed 1lb 6oz and arrived 128 days early. The record for a surviving baby born in Britain was previously held by a girl who was born 109 days premature in the West Midlands last November.

US calms Arab fears of air ban

Continued from page 1

who dismissed it as an effort "aimed at partitioning Iraq and harming the unity of its people and lands". Amr Moussa, Egypt's moderate foreign minister, expressed "deep concern" that the plan would split the country.

Jordan, Yemen and Algeria have also denounced the scheme, claiming that it would lead to a Kurdish-dominated statelet in the north, a heavily armed Sunni rump around Baghdad and a Shia Muslim puppet in the south, allied to Iraq.

Britain was accused in Baghdad newspapers yesterday of trying to partition the country "because of historic enmity". Abdul Jabbar Muhsein, Saddam's official spokesman, claimed in *Al-Qadisiya*, the defence ministry daily, that "Britain is trying to divide and drive a wedge between Iraqis of different ethnic and religious backgrounds".

Speeding hurricane takes city by surprise

Continued from page 1

half way through a window into his living room. "It was incredible. My family is screaming. But we are OK," he said.

All over the city fallen power lines, traffic lights, road signs and tree branches have burned streets into an obstacle course from hell. Many roads were simply impassable. Two feet of standing water turned Brickell Avenue, a banking district by the coast, into a river.

Few police units ventured on to the streets. Police cars did block the three main causeways on to Miami Beach preventing anxious evacuees from checking their abandoned homes.

The Florida Power and Light company said about a million people were without electricity and were likely to stay that way for several days, maybe even a week. An official said up to 1,000 work crews would begin to work 16-hour shifts to repair damage as soon as the storm has

passed. Many homes are also without water.

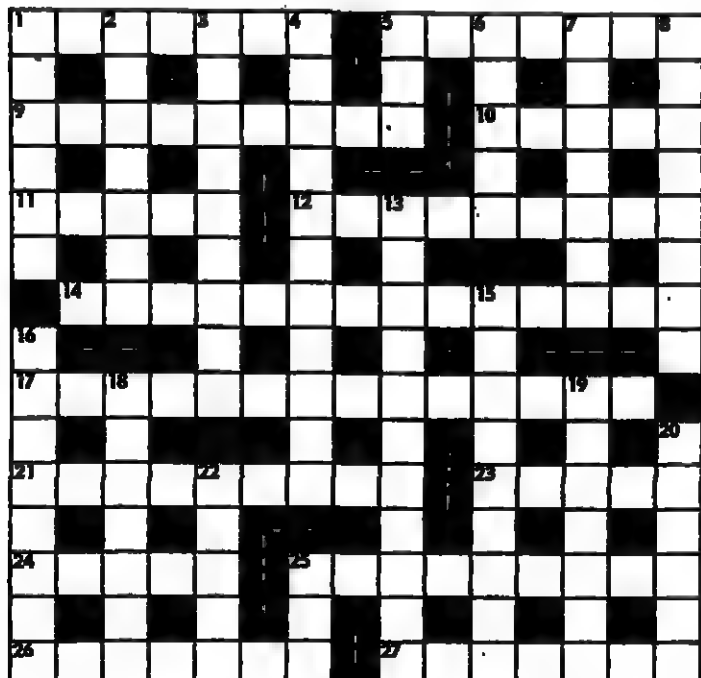
Fearing that a tidal surge would raise the sea level around the south Florida coast by up to 14 feet, local authorities took no risks. On Sunday, nearly a million people were ordered to leave all areas along the coast in the path of the hurricane. To ensure against any looting the state governor called in 1,500 National Guardsmen and an infantry battalion.

The evacuation was a remarkably smooth operation considering the number of people involved. Parts of the city were transformed into ghost towns, especially the Miami Beach district and Key Biscayne Island. The bars and cafes on Ocean Drive, the fashionable Art Deco seafront on Miami Beach, were deserted.

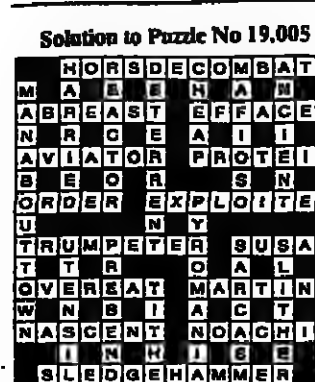
Hundreds of British holidaymakers caught up in the devastation slept last night at Miami airport.

Drought blamed, page 8

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- ACROSS**
- In France, I may succeed politician in project to design aircraft (4-3).
 - Meander and talk on the way back? I might (7).
 - One who's joined whip-round for the food? (9).
 - A medium twisting about is a spectacle (5).
 - Athletic side makes every ball a boundary (5).
 - It's kind of daddy to introduce idle confection (5,4).
 - By which one may see rep? (14).
 - Gasbag usually avoided by high-fliers (7,7).
 - Growing belief involves endless dispute (9).
 - Snug abstainer with a loaf (5).
 - Noisy row with the head? (5).
 - The tight gained a positional advantage... (9).
- DOWN**
- ... with a week to pull back. Trick? (7).
 - Label a record in a foreign language? (7).
 - Raise a loan, initially, from a swindler (6).
 - Brummel's drunk — he's stirring his words (7).
 - Doc's in the way of being cuddled by a bird — a dish? (9).
 - He may help retain the Ashes, say (4,7).
 - Fool's not beginning to show intelligence (3).
 - A majority of taxes must go up? Not at all (5).
 - Live broadcast, perhaps, should be quite fitting (7).
 - A kind of service suitable to be put in soldier's inscription? (8).
 - He's got lineages sorted out (1,1).
 - Going over end of the extract, to get information? (9).
 - Trouble with basics when setting up a Cartesian co-ordinate (8).
 - After revolution, see King die with common soldiers — the beast? (7).
 - Have a go at me, always hiding the biscuits? (7).
 - Scoundrel, for example, caught by distinguishing mark? Not quite (3,3).
 - She is caught by the Shakespearean tale-teller (5).
 - Where you may make a note flat (3).



- Answers to page 12**
- For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Greenwich, London | 701 |
| Kent, Surrey, Sussex | 702 |
| Dorset, Hampshire & IOW | 703 |
| Devon & Cornwall | 704 |
| Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset | 705 |
| Berkshire, Bucks, Oxford | 706 |
| Beds, Herts & Essex | 707 |
| Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs | 708 |
| West Midlands & Shropshire | 709 |
| Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester | 710 |
| Central Midlands | 711 |
| East Midlands | 712 |
| Lincoln & Humberside | 713 |
| Yorkshire | 714 |
| Northumbria & Cumbria | 715 |
| North East | 716 |
| W & S Yorks & Dales | 717 |
| N & E England | 718 |
| Cumbria & Lake District | 719 |
| SW Scotland | 720 |
| W Central Scotland | 721 |
| Edin & Fife/Lowland & Borders | 722 |
| E Central Scotland | 723 |
| Grampian & E Highlands | 724 |
| NW Scotland | 725 |
| Cairnness, Orkney & Shetland | 726 |
| N Ireland | 727 |
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- AA ROADWATCH**
- For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| London & SE | 731 |
| C. London (within N & S Circs.) | 732 |
| M-ways/roads M4-M1 | 733 |
| M-ways/roads M1-Dorset I | 734 |
| M-ways/roads Dorset I-M23 | 735 |
| M-ways/roads M23-M4 | 736 |
| M25 London Orbital only | 737 |
| National | 738 |
| National motorways | 739 |
| West Country | 740 |
| Wales | 741 |
| Midlands | 742 |
| East Angles | 743 |
| North-west England | 744 |
| North-east England | 745 |
| Scotland | 746 |
| Northern Ireland | 747 |
- AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheapest rates) and 48p per minute at all other times.

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

- SYNCHRONISM**
- A beagle's master
 - A spy's Tibetan regiment
 - Working together
- RUEFUL**
- A dormitory feast
 - A Parisian's evening meal
 - A scolding cry
- GALANTINE**
- A two-wheeled bike
 - A young male flirt
 - Spiced meat in aspic
- DHA**
- The Phoenician letter D
 - A Barnes measure of length
 - Carded goat's milk

Answers on page 12

Rain in England will move slowly south-eastwards, finally clearing during the afternoon. Showers affect the rest of the country, although eastern England will remain mainly dry. Showers will be most frequent over Northern Ireland and western Scotland. A breezy day but winds will decrease in the south. Outlook: sunny intervals on Wednesday, but more general rain for Thursday.

MIDDAY: 1-10th June; 11-10th July; 11-10th Aug; 11-10th Sept; 11-10th Oct; 11-10th Nov; 11-10th Dec										Sun		Mon		Tues		Wed		Thurs		Fri		Sat		
Area	Temp	Wind	Dir	Temp	Wind	Dir	Temp	Wind	Dir	Temp	Wind	Dir	Temp	Wind	Dir	Temp	Wind	Dir	Temp	Wind	Dir	Temp	Wind	Dir
Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
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Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
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Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
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Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
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Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10
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Alcatraz	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11.5	10	10	11								

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BUSINESS TIMES

TUESDAY AUGUST 25 1992

SPORT
23-26

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

Bank intervention fails to halt dollar's free fall

By Our Economics Correspondent

A RENEWED attempt by leading central banks to halt the collapse of the dollar failed to prevent the currency plummeting to a record low against the mark and allowed the pound to touch \$2 for the first time since the Gulf war.

The American currency, which started to go into free fall on the foreign exchange markets on Friday, yesterday dropped below DM1.40 at the end of the European trading day, despite repeated bursts of intervention by about 15 central banks, including the Bank of England, the German Bundesbank and America's Federal Reserve Bank.

Friday's ill-fated intervention failed to shake currency market conviction that the interest rate differential between America and Germany has made buying the mark a one-way bet. Some City analysts believe the failure of the central banks to stop the dollar's decline has undermined the credibility of the intervention instrument.

Although the dollar started to find some support in New York, after briefly dipping below DM1.40, currency analysts believe the economic fundamentals point to it going lower, given expectations that the Bundesbank does not intend to ease German interest rates soon and the Fed has no scope to ease America's monetary brakes.

Some currency analysts found yesterday's intervention half-hearted, with the total dollar's bought estimated at \$1-2 billion. This was seen as an indication that the central bankers have decided to wait for the market to become short of dollars before turning their big guns on the market.

The pound achieved handsome gains against the dollar. At the official London close at 4pm, it stood at \$1.9955, after a brief \$2 high. This represented a rise of 6.25 cents since Friday night. But sterling, caught in the crossfire of the dollar-mark battle, continued to lose ground, falling more than half a penny from Friday's finish to a record closing low of DM2.8001. It had been slightly below DM2.80 in the

afternoon and fell to DM2.7940, its lowest since ERM entry, after the official close. Despite official concern about sterling, the Bank of England was not seen to have intervened directly on behalf of the pound.

Poorer than expected trade figures for July had little impact on sentiment for sterling, but the pound did not appear to be under severe pressure, in spite of having dropped to less than 2 pence from its absolute ERM floor against the mark. While currency analysts believe the government will try to tough out the current pressure, using the Bank of England's huge reserves before resorting to higher interest rates, the money markets yesterday indicated expectations of a three-quarter point

increase in base rate in the near future from the current 10 per cent, even though the Bank had signalled no immediate change.

The White House announced a five-year \$10 billion training programme to help workers affected by cuts in defence spending and the free trade agreement with Mexico. However, the programme, designed to help 1.2 million workers a year, requires the approval of Congress.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research believes Britain's real exchange rate was about 5 per cent above the level consistent with macroeconomic equilibrium when sterling entered the ERM. It sees this widening if Britain does not keep inflation below its competitors.

TODAY IN BUSINESS

NON, NON, NON



The experience of the French in the mid-1980s suggests that the government would be unwise to realign sterling. Page 19

OUT OF COURT

Guinness-style scandals should be dealt with by regulatory bodies, not the criminal courts, the Securities and Futures Authority head says. Page 16

ILL WIND



Insurance claims resulting from Hurricane Andrew could dash hopes of profit at Lloyd's. Page 17

FUND SEEKERS

Savers are still withdrawing funds from building societies on a huge scale, according to latest figures. Page 17

LAW TIMES



Adjudication officers in social security claim cases are being overwhelmed by their workload, writes David Pannick. QC. Page 21

Trade setback helps wipe £10bn off shares

By Colin Nimbrough and Michael Clark

THE stubborn deficit on Britain's current account widened sharply to £934 million in July as imports forged ahead despite the persistent weakness of domestic demand, the latest official figures show.

The disappointing figures added to nerves on the stock market, where more than £10 billion was wiped from the value of Britain's publicly quoted companies. Share prices suffered their biggest one-day fall in more than a year amid City fears that a rise in interest rates is imminent.

At one stage, the FT-SE 100 index was down almost 60 points, but it closed 54.6 lower at 2,311.1, its highest one day loss since August 19 last year, when it tumbled 80 points on learning of the attempted Soviet coup.

The size of the July deficit after two years of recession severely disappointed City economists, who had predicted a shortfall little changed from the £747 million for June. The June figure was revised down from the £772 million originally reported.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, forecast in the Budget in March that the current account, which encompasses trade in tangible goods and "invisibles" such as financial transactions and services, would narrow to £6.5 billion this year. But the cumulative deficit for the first seven months has almost reached the Treasury's full-year target, even though continued recession had been expected to close the trade gap.

The Central Statistical Office data, out yesterday, showed that the July deficit on visible trade, which excludes the estimated £200 million surplus on invisible trade, widened to £1.13 billion, well above City expectations. In June, the visible deficit was £947 million. Imports were up 2 per cent in July at £9.9 billion, while exports rose slightly to £8.8 billion.

Although the pickup in imports added to City concern about the scope for British industry to meet any upturn in demand, the Treasury found the figures encouraging. A Treasury spokesman said the rise in exports in July underlined the "steady upward trend" in exports. Excluding oil and erratic items, such as aircraft and gems, exports were at a record level in the latest three months. The upward trend in imports, the Treasury said, was "consistent with the forecast recovery".

But volume data, which provide a better guide than value figures to the underlying trade position, showed exports up 1 per cent in the latest three months compared with the previous three and were 3.5 per cent up on a year ago. Imports also climbed 1 per

cent in the latest three months, but were an impressive 8 per cent higher than in the same period last year. Don Smith, economist at Midland Montagu, said the higher imports would give the optimists some encouragement about the economy, but noted that the continued weakening of export markets also threatened to widen the trade gap in the months ahead.

In the stock market, market-makers went on the defensive from the outset, marking share prices sharply lower, worried that the Bank of England would be forced to raise interest rates to halt the pound's slide. Their drastic measures proved successful, with selling pressure described as light. By the close, only 383 million shares had been traded.

Attempts at a rally around mid-morning were short-lived, with prices losing ground in the wake of the trade figures. The losses accelerated during the afternoon as another sharp decline in the value of the dollar prompted an early markdown on Wall Street.

The big dollar earners were worst hit, with double-figure losses recorded in most instances. ICI ended 23p lower at £10.89 and there were setbacks for Glaxo 29p to 70.1p, Reuters 27p to £10.17, RTZ 16p to 514p.

Government securities suffered falls of about £1, also disturbed by the possibility of dearer money. The worst falls were at the short end, which is always regarded as vulnerable

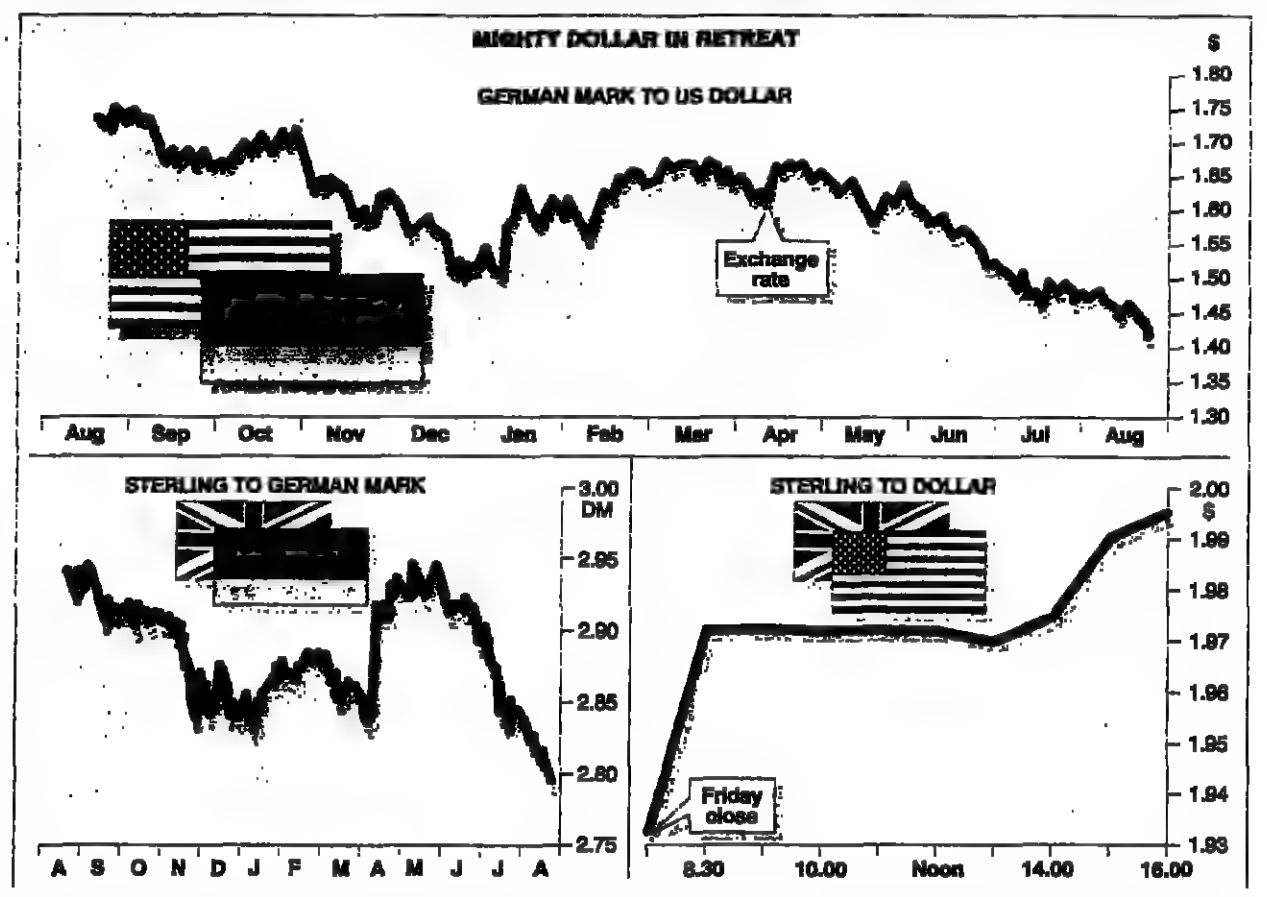
to movements in short-term interest rates. But brokers are convinced that the gilt auction tomorrow will be absorbed by the market despite the pound's plight. Fund managers have been selling stock in recent weeks to provide funds to take up the new stock and a large short position has built up inside the market.

Robin Cook, shadow trade secretary, called on the government to act now to stimulate investment at home and abroad, as Britain's trade deficit was increasing by the hour. Ian Campbell, director-general of the Institute of British Export, urged industry to become less insular, more proactive and more professional in its approach to international trade and for the City to take a longer-term view of export business. "Until we improve significantly our share of total world trade, and increase our volume of exports, pressure on sterling and the risk of higher interest rates will remain," he said.

Gold responded to fresh dollar weakness and worldwide share market nerves, rising \$4.75 to \$342.25 an ounce in active trading.

Bullion dealers said trading was brisk as investors increasingly dumped currencies. But the reaction in platinum and silver markets to the dollar's woes was largely muted. Silver closed 2 cents weaker at 374 cents an ounce, and platinum \$1 easier at \$351.25 an ounce.

Sterling survives, page 1
Stock market, page 18
Comment, page 19



Choice 'is one currency or floating rates'

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

STRAINS within the European exchange-rate mechanism strengthened the case for the move to a single currency planted under the Maastricht treaty, according to the National Institute for Economic and Social Research. In its quarterly review, the institute argues that, in practice, interest rates throughout the Community are determined by economic conditions in Germany. This has pushed rates much higher than is suitable for the Community as a whole, where weak demand and the easing of inflationary pressures call for a general reduction in the cost of money.

For that reason, Europe should not continue with the present ERM system if France votes against the Maastricht

treaty and the move to a single currency is pushed into the indefinite future. In that case, realignments would become larger and more frequent, as they were in the early years of the system, and parties might be made more unstable by the general sweeping away of exchange controls. The institute concludes that "the only lasting alternative to economic and monetary union may be a return to floating exchange rates within Europe".

A separate article in the review on equilibrium exchange rates projects a depreciation in the real exchange rate needed to achieve equilibrium, although this could eventually be achieved painlessly through changes in relative prices as an alternative to

devaluation. The institute finds that depreciation would have to be bigger, the longer it were delayed. The institute has again cut its short-term forecasts for the British economy. It now expects growth of only 1.7 per cent in 1993, after a 0.5 per cent contraction this year. But retail price inflation should fall to 2.8 per cent by the fourth quarter of next year.

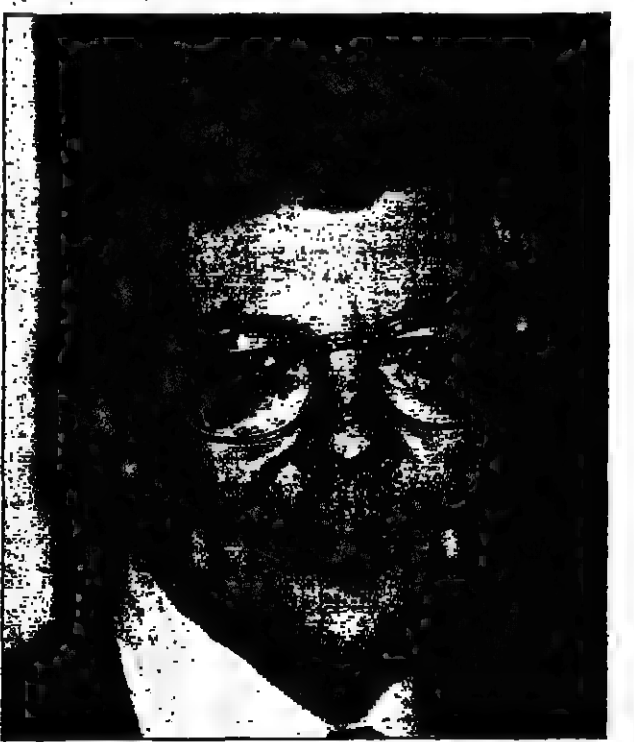
To stimulate demand, it recommends additional minor public works: allowing companies to defer payments of tax and business rates for a year at commercial interest rates; government loans to housing associations to buy residential property for later resale; and a cut in interest rates on National Savings.

The institute argues that a short-run increase in public spending and the public sector borrowing requirement would not matter if it were reversible. "Intervention to stimulate demand in present circumstances would be a proper use of policy instruments, and even more necessary since monetary policy is directed towards an exchange rate objective."

Devaluation of sterling might not be a sensible short-run option, the institute believes, unless there were a more general ERM realignment. Improved competitiveness would be offset by the possibility that interest rates might have to be increased because markets feared further devaluations.

Ellwood steps up as new TSB boss

By Jonathan Prynn



Taking over: Peter Ellwood, replaces Don McCrickard

DON McCrickard, the chief executive of TSB Group since January 1990, yesterday unexpectedly stood down from the post.

Mr McCrickard, who has been replaced by Peter Ellwood, 48, head of the retail banking and insurance division, had been blamed by some commentators for the problems at Hill Samuel, TSB's merchant banking subsidiary, which lost £419 million last year.

However, Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman of TSB Group, denied that Mr McCrickard was being forced out against his will. "Mr McCrickard and I agreed some time ago that the time was approaching when the task of the chief executive of the group would have substantially changed," he said.

Sir Nicholas added: "The future task is one of building on the foundations laid and ensuring maximum operational efficiency. Mr Mc-

Crickard and I believe that this is the appropriate time, as we approach the annual review of budgets and plans, for him to hand over the reins to Peter Ellwood."

However, analysts were sceptical of the explanation. "It would seem odd to pursue a new career in banking at the bottom of the recession," Nick Dobby, at Robert Fleming Securities, said.

Mr McCrickard, 56, is taking early retirement, and is likely to receive a substantial compensation package. He was employed on a three year rolling contract with a salary this year of £245,000.

The appointment of Mr Ellwood, who held a number of senior positions at Barclays before joining TSB in 1989, is being seen as the latest stage in the bank's reversal of its previous strategy of developing as "a broadly based financial services group," in favour of concentrating on its core retail banking operations.

IoD calls for time on licensing alcohol retailers

By Ross Tlemann, Industrial Correspondent

THE Institute of Directors has called on the government to end licensing of alcohol retailers in a package of reforms that, it says, would cut bureaucratic burdens on business.

Other proposals include the abolition of licences for taxi operators, driving instructors, car-piercing parlours and for public exhibitions, theatres and cinemas. In all, the institute believes a quarter of Britain's 200 business licences requirements could be scrapped.

The bosses organisation believes abolition would benefit the customers the licences were originally designed to protect. It is also seeking a

fundamental review of 29 other areas in which businesses require licences to operate.

The proposals are detailed in a letter to Baroness Denton, the small firms minister. They have been drawn up in response to a government request, issued in March, for information on licensing requirements that could usefully be abolished.

"In considering the reform of licence requirements, there should be a presumption in favour of free competition, unless the case can be proved otherwise," the institute said.

The institute acknowledged the need to ensure the health and safety of the public. However, Ian Smedley, the IoD's small business research executive, said: "In most cases, general stat-

utes and the operation of the market provide better protection than licences." According to the institute, many of the licensing requirements, because of cost of compliance, act as barriers to entry, which keep the price of some services artificially high, and inhibit competition.

Many of the institute's proposals are likely to meet stiff opposition in some quarters. Yet the institute insists the potential gains are considerable.

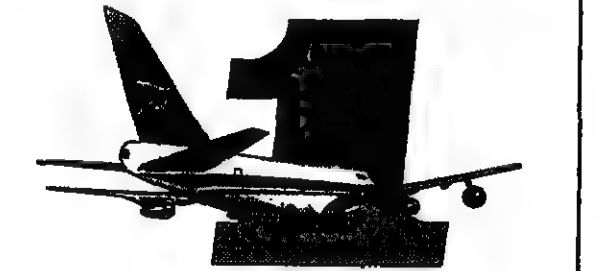
On the sale of alcohol, the institute argues in favour of abolishing licences for consumption both on and off the premises. Licensing has restricted opportunities for both retailers and restaurateurs, and contributed to a concentration of ownership. Licensing of late night refreshment

houses and sex shops should also be abolished, and the need to seek licences for public performances should be scrapped. Public nuisance laws should be used to protect neighbours. The licensing of game dealers, lodging houses and scrap metal dealers was outdated, and should be dropped.

Meantime, publication at rest centres of results achieved by driving schools would help the public more than licensing instructors.

Other licensing regimes, ranging from animal semen for artificial insemination to the sale of methylated spirit, should also be abolished, the institute said. In addition, the institute called for a review and reform of betting duties.

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No.1. No Wonder.

Watchdog calls for fewer trials

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE head of a leading City regulatory body has called for many serious breaches of City regulations or of the Financial Services Act to be dealt with by regulatory bodies rather than in expensive criminal trials.

Christopher Sharpley, chairman of the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), which regulates traders in the securities, options and futures markets, says: "There is a growing consensus for a different approach to dealing with cases that involve breaches of market rules, market manipulation or even fraud on the market as a whole, as against individual investors."

Writing in *Futures and Options Plus*, an industry newsletter, he suggests that the full weight of criminal law should be reserved for cases such as Barlow Clowes, in which clients' assets are stolen.

The chief agencies concerned, such as the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), the Department of the Bank of England, the Securities and Investments Board and the SFA, should adopt a co-ordinated approach and agree on which body is best placed to investigate alleged wrongdoing. Mr Sharpley says decisions would be necessary on whether particular issues should be prosecuted in the criminal courts or at City tribunals.

His views articulate City disquiet, understood to be shared at the SFO, that the long and expensive trials in the Guinness/Distillers and Blue Arrow cases have under-

mined public faith in the law. Mr Sharpley argues that the low success rate of prosecutions for a wide range of alleged offences "has fostered the view that 'men in suits' can wriggle off the hook with expensive lawyers who so complicate matters that the trial becomes hopelessly confused and unmanageable". This has led to confusion over which cases need the full sanction of criminal law and which could be dealt with better by regulatory authorities.

Tribunals chaired by lawyers require less onerous levels of proof, but can still act as a deterrent and deal out real punishment, at no public expense. Mr Sharpley says regulators could act faster but "are stymied once criminal proceedings are started, partly because of the prevailing attitude that 'crime must go first' and in part from concern about prejudice".

He continues: "The SFA is, for example, able to carry out disciplinary actions against firms and/or individuals. Penalties that can be imposed on those found to be in breach of its rules include very substantial fines, restitution to clients, restrictions on individuals' activities in the future, the closing down of firms and the prohibition of individuals from returning to the industry either for a period or perhaps forever."

"The self-regulatory bodies have sanctions that can be severe indeed. They should be given full rein to use them."



Reason to smile: Greg Hutchings was paid £995,000 in salary and bonuses

Tomkins chief gets 54% pay rise

GREG Hutchings, chief executive of Tomkins, the industrial conglomerate, received a 54 per cent pay rise in the year to May 2, taking his salary to almost £1 million (Angela Mackay writes).

Mr Hutchings, 45, earned £995,000, compared with £646,000 previously, according to the company's annual

report released yesterday. His basic salary rose 13 per cent to £503,000 and he received a 140 per cent increase in performance-related bonuses, from £203,000 to £492,000. Bonuses are calculated from growth in earnings per share, dividends and the company's share price. The finance director, Ian Duncan, has a similar

incentive arrangement. Tomkins has interests in small arms, bathroom fittings, bicycles, industrial valves and mechanical footwear. Its pre-tax profits for the year rose 18 per cent to £132 million; the total payout was up 15 per cent. The company joined the FTSE 100 in January.

Molynx interim profits collapse

By COLIN CAMPBELL

PROFITS at Molynx, the closed-circuit television and environmental control group, collapsed in the six months to June. The company said its earlier hope that 1992 year-end profits would be higher was "now out of the question".

Eric Walters, chairman, said deepening recession had made sales generally difficult; turnover had risen by 5 per cent to £11.01 million but that was due solely to two acquisitions.

Pre-tax profit fell from £1.1 million to £455,000. The interim dividend is held at 1.3p, declared out of net earnings of 0.2p (6.4p) a share, on the ground that first-half results do not indicate the likely year-end outcome.

"In view of our current order books in Britain, we believe that the second half will show progress over the first," Mr Walters said. He conceded that the first-half result had been "very disappointing".

Sales in the CCTV and security division were 3 per cent down; those in the building energy management division fell by 29 per cent. Without the two acquisitions, group sales would have been 16 per cent lower.

Gearing on June 30 was 40 per cent, compared with 25 per cent at the end of December.

Molynx said the two acquisitions, made last October and largely funded by a £5.5 million rights issue at 88p a share, had both achieved their first-half budgets and been successfully integrated. The shares rose 1p to 39p.

Lionheart turnover doubles for half year

LIONHEART, the home improvements and housewares group in which the American Newell Company holds a 13.4 per cent stake will pay a 0.2p (nil) dividend for the six months ended June. Lionheart returned to the dividend paying lists in April after a three-year absence when it paid a 0.3p final dividend for the 1991 financial year.

Paul Lever, chairman, reports interim sales of £21.5 million (£11 million) and pre-tax profits of £1.1 million (£768,000) for the half year. He expects continued improvement in the rest of 1992 and says group strategy is to focus on building a do-it-yourself and housewares group while continuing to reduce costs. Trading conditions were difficult in the first half, Mr Lever said. There was no sign yet of an economic recovery, he added. The shares were 1/4p easier at 16 1/2p.

Hibernian advances

A SHARP decrease in the size and number of claims has led to a big jump in profits at Hibernian group, the Dublin insurance company. In the six months to end-June, pre-tax profits were £18.7 million (£8.18 million) compared with £12.8 million in the first half of 1991. Underwriting losses were out from £1.1 million to £16.4 million, while higher short-term interest rates helped lift investment income from £13.7 million to £14.7 million. The interim dividend is raised 10.5 per cent to 12.1p (11.9p).

Beauford cuts loss

BEAUFORD, a designer and manufacturer of material handling equipment, cut losses from £240,000 before tax to £218,000 in the six months to end-June. Losses were 7.6p a share (6.9p) and there is no interim dividend (1.85p). There is an extraordinary charge of £1.85 million against losses on the disposal of Kamat, a pump maker, and the sale, for £628,116, of a 51 per cent interest in EW Bliss, which makes metal forming machines.

Jardine shares forged

AMERICAN authorities are reported to have arrested individuals with forged Jardine Matheson Holdings share certificates in their possession. "The police believe that all the forged certificates have been seized by the authorities in the United States and that none remain in circulation," the company said in a statement released in London. The Hong Kong and London stock exchanges were being kept informed while the police investigation proceeded.

ABBEY TRUST MANAGERS				CAPITAL GROWTH UNIT TRUST				CAPITAL GROWTH UNIT TRUST				CAPITAL GROWTH UNIT TRUST			
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200	200.00	0.00	0.00	200	200.00	0.00	0.00	200	200.00	0.00	0.00	200	200.00	0.00	0.00
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Hurricane Andrew dashes hopes of profit at Lloyd's

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE London insurance market is bracing itself for another massive loss as claims from Hurricane Andrew, which has devastated the Florida coast, flood in. Independent Lloyd's observers believe the hurricane will dash hopes that Lloyd's of London will make a profit for the 1992 year.

Insiders had hoped the market would return to profit following four years of loss. One loss adjuster has warned that the estimated total insurance loss could top \$12 billion to \$15 billion, and points out losses will mount if Andrew goes on to hit one of the major Texan or Gulf coast cities.

But more conservative estimates put the losses at around the same level as Hurricane Hugo, which cost the world insurance market \$5.8 billion in 1989. Lloyd's is likely to bear up to a quarter of the losses.

However, Lloyd's experts say the market is in a much stronger position following its experience with Hurricane Hugo. Terry Hayday, chief executive of Sturge Group's insurance division, says a larger amount of the loss will be absorbed by the American insurance industry. The reinsurance today are larger than they were in 1989.

Direct insurers in America will retain the first \$1.5 billion losses on Hurricane Andrew. About a quarter of the rest is believed to be reinsured in London, which means it faces estimated losses of over \$1 billion. With Hurricane Hugo the London market bore about half the reinsurance claims.

John Rens of Chaslet, independent Lloyd's consultants, says: "1992 was never going to be fantastically profitable. Rates have not improved as much as Lloyd's would like us to suppose."

Hugo laid waste to parts of the Caribbean and the south-east United States in September 1989. Losses from Hugo were the biggest to affect Lloyd's since hurricane Betty in 1965. This time the London market's share of the loss will be lower because

rising prices and tougher policy wording following four years of massive claims meant many insurers reduced their reinsurance cover, retaining a higher portion of the risk themselves.

Julianne Jessup, of consultants De Lisle Jessup Scott, believes Lloyd's will fare much better with Hurricane Andrew than with Hugo. She says: "Lloyd's has quite radically restructured the way it writes reinsurance."

The "reinsurance spiral," which has led to most of Lloyd's problems over the past few years, no longer exists. George Lloyd-Roberts, chairman of Lloyd's Underwriters' Non-Marine Association, says the retrocessional market, where reinsurers reinsured themselves, has effectively disappeared and the distribution of risk is much more balanced than three or four years ago.

A combination of low insurance rates and higher than usual losses from catastrophic claims led to Lloyd's recording its \$10 million loss for its 1988 underwriting year and a £2.06 billion loss for 1989.

Under Lloyd's three year accounting system it is due to unveil its figures for 1990 next year. Chaslet estimates the market will lose £1.5 billion for 1990 and £750 million in 1991. It had been predicting a small profit for 1992, but says Hurricane Andrew could keep it in the red.



Window of opportunity: John Townsend, Epwin financial director, left, and Jim Rawson, chairman, say profits are up nearly 7 per cent

Epwin climbs to £1.3m

By COLIN CAMPBELL

EPWIN Group, the specialist window maker that in March raised £5.4 million to fund expansion, has established a joint venture operation with Turkish partners in Istanbul from which benefits are expected to flow in 1993.

Jim Rawson, chairman and owner of 30 per cent of Epwin, says the economic climate affected all the group's market sectors in the six months ended June 30, but despite this pre-tax profits rose by 6.9 per cent to £1.31 million.

Interim turnover was £20.5 million (£19.7 million) against a continuing depressed market which in value terms in 1991 fell by 14 per cent.

"We therefore see the group's performance as satisfactory under these circumstances," Mr Rawson said. The interim is held at 2.1p a share, declared out of net earnings of 5p (5.2p) a share.

Epwin's business philosophy is that if you are not the market leader, then make sure you are top of the second division, and says a broad mix of markets has led to higher profits at a time when many other companies are faltering.

Epwin is half way through a two-year £9.9 million capital expenditure programme, and says a strong balance sheet makes it well placed to benefit when conditions improve generally. The shares rose 1p to 150p.

Building society receipts fall to 3.9% of funding

By SARA MCCONNELL

BUILDING societies' net retail receipts fell dramatically in the first quarter of this year, almost halving from 7.2 per cent of societies' funding at the end of last year to 3.9 per cent, the Building Societies' Commission said yesterday.

In the first quarter of last year, net retail receipts stood at 31.6 per cent. At the same time, societies' stock of whole sale funds continued to grow as a proportion of their funding, reaching 20 per cent at the end of the quarter. These stood at 19.8 per cent at the end of last year.

This comes as societies steel themselves for news that sav-

ings withdrew £325 million a month more than they deposited in July.

The Commission's annual report said: "As retail net receipts faltered in the second half of last year, so the demand for wholesale funding increased and net uptake for the year reached £6.5 billion, with a further uptake of nearly £1.5 billion in the first quarter of 1992, mainly in March."

However, the uptake of funds slowed compared with last year, when net receipts fell from 52.8 per cent of funding at the end of last year to 24.3 per cent this year.

Mortgage arrears and re-

possessions continued to rise in the first quarter of this year, accounting for 7.06 per cent of building societies' mortgage books, the Building Societies' Commission said in its annual report. At the end of 1990, arrears and repossessions were 4.38 per cent of all mortgage books.

The growth in repossessions has slowed, rising to 1.75 per cent of all mortgage books from 1.72 per cent at the end of last year. Mortgages more than six months in arrears rose more sharply, now accounting for 5.31 per cent of societies' books up from 5.08 per cent at the end of 1991.

Textile firm aims for £40m value

By PATRICIA TEHAN

ALAN Lewis hopes to raise up to £19.2 million from the sale of his Woolcombers wool processing group, which comes to the stock market at the end of next month. The hope is that it will have a market capitalisation of £40 million.

The cash will be used to pay debt from a £48 million syndicated loan taken out when Mr Lewis took Illingworth Morris, the textiles conglomerate of which Woolcombers is a part, private in 1989.

He will retain a 52 per cent stake in Woolcombers and plans to float the other half of Illingworth, the spinning, weaving and Crombie menswear companies, under the Crombie name next year.

Mr Lewis took Illingworth private at 185p a share with plans to return when he had reorganised the conglomerate and built it up into two businesses, the Woolcombers processing side and the Crombie brand name.

Woolcombers consists of Woolcombers Processors, Westbrook, a lanolin producer and Jarmain, a commission wool scourer.

Despite a recession in the textiles market, Woolcombers increased turnover 29 per cent to £30.05 million in the year to March 31, and profits before interest and exceptional items increased 119 per cent to £3.38 million.

Meetings called for Docklands creditors

By ANGELA MACKAY

ADMINISTRATORS to Canary Wharf, the Docklands scheme developed by Olympia & York, the troubled Canadian property group, will hold a series of meetings today and tomorrow with hundreds of the project's creditors.

Between them, these are owed about £625 million. Ernst & Young, the administrators, last week interviewed several merchant banks, including Goldman Sachs, in preparation for a search for new investors in the project. The administrators have few serious offers on the table.

They include one of £350 million from a syndicate of Wall Street investors. This afternoon, Ernst & Young meet sub-contractors owed about £50 million by O&Y Contractors - following an earlier meeting with creditors of O&Y Canary Wharf, one of the senior UK companies.

Another three meetings will be held tomorrow with creditors of Heron Quay, First

Tower and other smaller Canary Wharf subsidiaries. The bulk of the company's debt is secured and owed to a syndicate of banks, headed by Lloyds and Barclays. Other creditors have not enjoyed the bank's access to the administrators and depend on this week's meetings to air their grievances.

Sub-contractors, in particular, have maintained a hard line on payment and mostly downed tools as soon as news of the administrators was circulated at the end of May.

Last week, Canary Wharf's parent, O&Y, put a reconstruction plan before its creditors, owed \$1.1 billion, who gave the proposals a lukewarm reception. The Reichmann family, who founded the company, offered to cede voting control, and also pledged to transfer 20 per cent of their private American real estate assets, in addition to ownership of Canadian properties worth more than £3100 million (£43 million).

Sidlaw buys

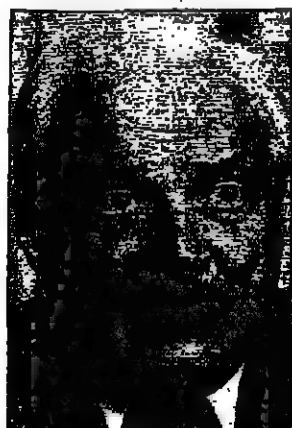
Sidlaw, the oil services, packaging and textiles combine, has acquired Falcon Packaging for £5.25 million. Falcon, based in Evesham, Worcestershire, employs 78 staff making packaging for frozen and processed food. At the end of August 1991, net assets were £860,000. In the first nine months of the current year, profits before tax are estimated at £470,000, against a total of £140,000 in the last full year.

Rolls order

A \$140 million order for gas turbines has been won by Cooper Rolls, the power equipment joint venture between Rolls-Royce of Britain and Cooper Industries of America. The contract, placed by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission of India, will result in work worth \$50 million (£24 million) for Rolls-Royce Industrial and Marine Gas Turbines.

New money outpaces old in the billionaire league table

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK



Goldsmith: up to £1.5bn

THE family fortunes of self-made billionaires have outstripped those whose money came the old-fashioned way, via inheritance, according to *Fortune*, the financial magazine.

Over the past five years, individuals whose wealth has been linked to commercial trade consistently outpaced those with little personal say in how their money was spread around. Even the fortune of the Sultan of Brunei, who has ranked as the world's richest man in each of the past five years, has climbed only 48 per cent

to \$37 million while those with a stake in their businesses of food, gambling and computers have done well.

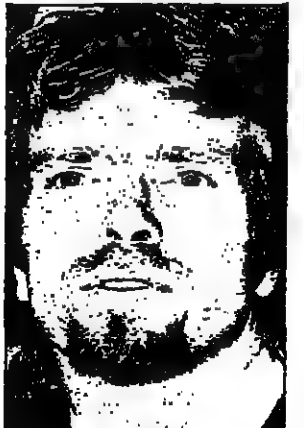
The Queens, fourth richest in 1987 with \$7.4 billion, saw her ranking drop to six this year with \$11.7 billion. The Duke of Westminster has come down with a bump. He is worth only as much as he was five years ago when \$4 billion made him 14th wealthiest in the world, but today ranks him 28th.

The biggest fall was felt by Alfred Taubman, the 68-year-old Sotheby's chairman and US Shopping Mall owner.

His fortune has plunged by \$2.2 billion in five years to \$1.3 billion, sending him down 179 places to 185. Since 1987, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia's fortune has halved to \$10 billion and demoted him from second to seventh place.

By contrast, Bill Gates, inventor of Microsoft, the computer software, has seen his wealth increase six fold in five years to \$5.9 billion. The Sainsbury supermarket dynasty have almost equalled the rise. In 1987 they were worth \$1 billion. Today, \$5.2 billion. Sir John Moores, 96-year-old owner of Littlewoods Pools, is now worth \$4.5 billion, 87 per cent more than in 1987. Over the same period Sir James Goldsmith's fortune has risen 50 per cent to \$1.5 billion.

On the other hand, Richard Branson's Virgin empire has actually fallen by \$100 million to \$1.4 billion. Two tiny tots make their debut among the world's richest: Athina Roussel, seven, now the heir to half the shipping fortune of Aristotele Onassis, and nine-year-old Prince Albert Von Thurn und Taxis, worth \$1 billion.



Branson: down £100m

British poised to win in EC capital markets

By GRAHAM SEARGEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

BRITISH banks and securities groups are second only to their American rivals in winning business in international markets and are in a strong position to penetrate continental financial markets, according to a study commissioned by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. To improve performance in international capital markets, however, the industry should reverse the trend towards universal banking conglomerates and build bigger, stronger independent investment banks.

A study of commercial and investment banks round the world shows that, on 1989 figures, American institutions took two thirds of the non-domestic business in a series of key markets combined on a measure geared to fee income. The markets were foreign exchange, international merger and acquisition advice, syndicated loans, international bonds and equities, Euro certificates of deposit, commercial paper and medium-term notes. British financial

institutions captured 17 per cent of the combined markets on the same measure, while no other country's banks won more than Japan's 5.1 per cent. The other main EC countries had 5.6 per cent between them.

The study, to be published next month, suggests British banks are more efficient because they have had few of the special benefits of their rivals, such as a strong currency or domestic economy. Efficiency has been spurred by the open market in London, which has honed skills to face hectic competition.

American banks have benefited from the legal separation of commercial and investment banking. German and other continental banks have suffered from non-specialisation and, as in Japan, regulations that have the effect of protecting domestic markets. British banks should in future avoid further takeovers of merchant banks by commercial banks and create stronger independent investment banks by merging rivals.

RECENT ISSUES

Bickley (100)	92	...	Telegraph (325)	285	-5
Broadgate Inv Trust (100)	101	...	Thorn 1000 Smr Co's Wts 14
Dartmoor Inv Trst Warrants	19	...	Yorkshire TV Warrants	16	...
Dwyer A	19	...			
Euro Smr Cos Wts (500)	465	-5			
Finabury Smr Cos 0 Prt 147			
HSBC 75p	305	-11			
KWren Endt Pky (100)	100	...			
Quality Care Hms (136)	151	...			
TR Technology Units	1700	...			
Taurillon Cider 10p (140)	165	-1			

MAJOR CHANGES

FALLS:					
Carlton Comm	581p (-18p)				
BAA	655p (-11p)				
Shell	452p (-15p)				
THORN EMI	693p (-18p)				
Cable Wireless	495p (-12p)				
BICC	259p (-13p)				
WH Smith 'A'	364p (-13p)				
Hogg Robinson	178p (-26p)				
Laporte	455p (-12p)				
Courtauld	452p (-12p)				
G Wespary	90p (-13p)				
Redland	361p (-22p)				

RMC Group	447p (-13p)				
Young 'A'	505p (-10p)				
Barclays	281p (-16p)				
HSBC	305p (-11p)				
Lloyds	396p (-10p)				
Midland	429p (-20p)				
Allied-Lyons	572p (-10p)				
Bass	502p (-18p)				
Greenall Group	347p (-13p)				

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GOVERNMENT securities

suffered falls of about £1 across the board as fears of an imminent rise in domestic base rates heightened.

The worst falls were recorded at the shorter end of the market, which is usually more vulnerable to fluctuations in short-term interest rates. Exchequer 9% per cent 1998 fell 24 ticks, to close at £1004.

But the pound's volatility also took its toll at the longer end: dealers expressed concern about the impact of sterling's plight on tomorrow's auction. Treasury 8% per cent 2017 lost 28 ticks to end 979½ down. However, selling pressure was reported to be light and brokers claim that a large short position has built up, with institutions selling stock to provide funds to take up the issue of new stock.

In the futures market, turnover was brisk, the long gilt falling £1 to 996½.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

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Dollar worries push Dow into early slide

ASSTO	23	23	Goodrich (NY)	44	44	Raytheon	44
Ashland Oil	23	23	Goodyear Tire	44	44	Rockwell Int'l	39
All Richfield	115	115	Gumex (Wash)	35	35	Royce's Metals	49
Auto Data Pro	30	30	Int'l Air Pac Inc	20	20	Rockwell Svc	54
Avco Denison	30	30	Great Wm Fin	17	17	Rockwell Int'l	23
Avon Products	30	30	Hubbards	31	31	Robins & Ross	51
Baker Hughes	30	30	Hydrex (Fla)	49	49	Royal Dutch	52
Bellini Cap & B	23	23	Hymatex	49	49	Sampson's	30

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 92.4 (day's range 92.1-92.4).			
FORWARD RATES			
Mile Rates for Aug 24	Range	Close	
Amsterdam	3.1515-1.612	3.1515-1.652	1 month
Brussels	57.49-57.2	57.49-57.1	1-1/2 yrs
Copenhagen	10.8090-10.8350	10.8090-10.8260	2 yrs
Frankfurt	2.7930-2.845	2.7930-2.7965	2 1/2 yrs
Madrid	245.15-247.85	245.15-246.68	3 yrs
Milan	180.29-181.12	180.29-180.59	4 yrs
Paris	212.60-213.20	213.00-213.00	5 yrs
Stockholm	2.2450-2.271	2.2450-2.271	10-12 mos
New York	1.9710-1.9525	1.9915-1.9925	1-1/2 yrs
Oslo	11.0370-11.1150	11.0390-11.0760	2 yrs
San Francisco	9.3000-9.5420	9.3000-9.5420	2 1/2 yrs
Stockholm	10.2150-10.2660	10.2150-10.2350	3 yrs
Tokyo	246.80-248.45	248.22-248.45	4 yrs
Vancouver	1.9245-1.978	1.9245-1.978	5 yrs
Zurich	2.4704-2.4913	2.4704-2.4797	10-12 mos

Premium = pr. Discount = d.

OTR RATES

Argentina peso*	1.9705-1.9736	
Australia	1.3991-1.4000	

Aluminum "w"	9642.97-9648.23	Canada	150.00-200.00
Cypress round	0.8025-0.8125	Denmark	3.886-1.189
Grind round	7.6422-7.7425	France	4.5452-4.5626
Green drachma	34.45-34.88	Germany	4.8100-4.8185
Hong Kong dollar	15.3605-15.3703	Italy	4.0683-4.0707
India rupee	7.6292-7.6377	Hong Kong	7.7305-7.7375
Kuwait dirham	0.5720-0.5790	Japan	1.8770-1.8800
Malaysian ringgit	4.9483-4.9567	South Korea	170.25-107.4
Mexico peso	6040-61	India	124.57-124.6
New Zealand dollar	3.6855-3.6941	Netherlands	5.8880-5.8925
Australian dollar	7.3517-7.4385	Norway	7.7850-5.588
Singapore dollar	3.1829-3.1866	Portugal	24.40-24.6
S. Africa rand (fin)	7.7555-7.7869	Singapore	6.0015-6.002
S. Africa rand (com)	7.7555-7.7869	Spain	90.02-91.0
U.S. dollar	1.9197-1.9280	Sweden	3.1510-3.1610
Barclays Bank GTS *	Lloyds Bank	Switzerland	1.2465-1.247

MONITOR			
Base Rates: Clearing Banks 10	Finance Rate 10		
Discount Market Loans: Overnight 10	Low 9		
Treasury Bills (Daily): 2 mth 10; 3 mth 10; 9m: 2 mth 9.5; 3 mth: 9.5		Week Ended: 9	
Prime Bank Bills (Daily): 10%-10	2 mth 10	3 mth 6	6 mth 12
Starting Money Rates:	10%-10	10%-10	10%-10
10%-10	10%-10	10%-10	10%-10
Overnight: open 10, close 9	10%-10	10%-10	10%-10
Local Authority Debt:	10%	n/a	10%
Starting CDs:	10%-10	10%-10	10%-10
Overnight:	3.30-3.32	n/a	3.35-3.30
Building Society CDs:	10%-10	10%-10	10%
	10%	10%	10%

ECGD: Fixed Rate Starting Export Finance, Make-up date: July 31, 1992 Agreed rate: Aug 2, 1992 to Sept 22, 1992 Scheme 11 11.27% Scheme 11 & 12 11.46% Reference rate: July 31, 1992 to July 31, 1992 Scheme 1V & 1V: 10.18%

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)					
Currency	1 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Dollar	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2
Deutsche Mark	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2
Swiss Franc	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2
French Franc	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2
Yen	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2	3-3 1/2

GOLD AND SILVER METALS (Bullion \$/oz)			
Bullion: Open \$339.40-339.70	Close \$341.00-342.30	High \$342.50-342.80	
Low \$339.00-338.50	Kingsgrant: \$341.00-343.00	\$171.00-172.00	
Silver: \$378.00-380.00	\$390.00-40.50	New \$41.00-42.00	

Trade p
overvalu
B

ERM da

THE TIMES

mounting for
another book

Trade pointers to overvalued pound

Britain's trade performance is deeply embarrassing for the government. July's trade gap was worse than expected and emerged on a day of peculiar sensitivity for sterling. In markets dominated by the financial rather than the trading value of a currency, however, poor trade figures would not of themselves bring short-term pressure for devaluation. The most embarrassing implications lie in a longer perspective. They underline the judgment of foreign exchange dealers that the currency's parity against its crucial European trading partners is too high. The pound's increasing strength against the dollar reinforces that judgment rather than counteracts it, both in trade and in its effect on the value of dollar-denominated oil production.

That basic doubt over sterling will remain in the background if the Bank of England calmly manages to manoeuvre the currency out of the European exchange-rate mechanism relegation zone and even if the Treasury were eventually forced to raise interest rates. It would remain even if the dollar/mark storm, which has upset sterling in its wash, were simply to blow itself out.

Essentially, the government faces a contradiction. Sterling was put into the ERM at parities aimed at providing an anchor for anti-inflation policies rather than trade balance. The trade gap was then much larger but could be dismissed as the product of the British economy booming too fast while its export markets were in the doldrums. Today, that argument no longer holds. Export markets may be weak but British markets are weaker.

At this stage, trade should be in surplus. Even allowing for the progressive improvement in competitiveness that ERM discipline should bring, there ought to be something like balance if British industry is to hold its own in more normal times. Yet the trade gap has grown to £6.4 billion in the first six months, as much as the government's expectation for the whole year. Export growth is fading while imports are still buoyant. The main impact of such an imbalance is on domestic production and jobs, but the doubts will remain as an undercurrent in the foreign exchanges, however committed the government is to maintaining parities. The policy contradiction is, at least, a further argument against raising interest rates, but suggests that the British economy can only afford to return to expansion in the rearward of the world economy.

ERM dangers

Today's problem for the currency markets is living with a dollar crisis. But tomorrow's may be a problem that encompasses the whole of the ERM. As the mark climbed to new highs, other currencies, notably the lira and the French franc moved closer towards their EMS danger zones. They are by no means flirting with the absolute limits within the system like the pound. But with nothing clearly in sight to halt the flight from the dollar into the mark, the franc and the lira will continue to suffer.

Yesterday, both were under pressure. The mark touched FF3.4078 against the franc's ERM floor of just over 3.43 while the Italian currency dipped to a low of L763 against a limit of L765.

Action by America to stabilise the dollar is not easy to see. The ball is thus firmly at the feet of the German government and its central bank whose eyes are firmly fixed on the domestic problems of coping with unification. Nothing though is more likely to tip France's Maastricht referendum towards a "no" vote than the possibility of higher interest rates in order to meet the needs of an exchange-rate system that is nowadays doing more to unsettle parities than to stabilise them.

Sterling under pressure should not follow the franc's example

There are beguiling parallels between the French currency in the eighties and the pound today, says Wolfgang Münchau

The prime minister staked a good deal of his political credibility on a pledge not to devalue, but massive pressure in foreign exchange markets persuaded him in the end to yield to the inevitable. He needed an excuse and a convenient scapegoat, but this did not prove much of a problem.

The German authorities, and particularly the monetary authorities, he declared, "have not done what they should have." The result was what he misleadingly called "a D-mark crisis".

The prime minister was Jacques Chirac of France, and the year was 1987, when the franc threatened to fall through the bottom of its permitted range in the ERM. Heavy intervention failed to prop up the franc, and in January of that year European finance ministers agreed to what was, up to the present, the last general realignment within the ERM.

The stories of the French franc in the 1980s and of sterling today show some significant parallels, although this time a realignment is perhaps not as inevitable as it was five years ago. A French no-vote at the referendum on the Maastricht treaty might still precipitate a realignment, or worse, but until then the odds must be in favour of a retention of present parities.

For John Major, the plight of the French franc in general and of M. Chirac in particular may serve as a reminder of what happens if one yields to realignment pressures too readily, however strong such pressures may feel at the time. Although the franc has maintained its parity for the past five years, the French currency has still not quite recovered from the various realignments of the early and mid-1980s, and especially the 6 per cent devaluation surprise of April 1986.

For Mr Major, it might also be significant that M. Chirac subsequently lost his job as prime minister, and failed in his bid for the presidency.

What the events of 1987 and today have in common is that the pressure was precipitated by a run on the dollar, as international investors sought refuge in the mark. Whenever that happens, the mark appreciates not only against the dollar but also against the currencies inside the ERM, and this usually puts strong pressure on the weakest currency in the system. In 1987, this was the franc; today it is sterling. So far, the parallels are virtually perfect. In both cases, German monetary policy was blamed for the problems. Then, as

today, central banks tried to intervene. In 1987, they spent \$10 billion in a single week, but this failed to have any significant effect. At a secret weekend meeting, the Monetary Committee of the European Communities decided on a compromise, involving a revaluation of the mark by 3 per cent, designed to save the French some embarrassment. Britain is in a better position today than France was in 1987, if only because the British government can draw from the French experience.

The main lesson from this is that once you agree to a devaluation within the ERM, financial markets will expect further devaluations in the future, setting in motion a self-fulfilling vicious circle.

The larger the devaluation, of course, the less likely such expectations are, but one should bear in mind that realignments, however small, are always controversial decisions. European finance ministers might agree to let a currency "crawl" up or down the ERM ladder, but they are much less likely ever to agree on a

"leap". The other, perhaps less obvious, lesson from the ERM is that intervention does not work very well, and is certainly unlikely to maintain parities that financial markets regard as unrealistic. This has partly to do with the emergence of the mark as the anchor of the system, and of the Bundesbank as the system's leading central bank, a situation which was

Although the franc has maintained its parity for the past five years, the French currency has still not quite recovered from the various realignments of the 1980s

not envisaged from the outset. Moreover, this is also due to the ERM's complex intervention mechanisms, which are stacked against a country that needs to prop up its own currency.

It was this mechanism that the founders of the ERM thought to be among the system's most important elements, and it was this mechanism

that constituted one of the main differences between the ERM and the currency snake, its ill-fated predecessor.

The intervention mechanism works on two levels. At the extreme level, the central banks involved are obliged to intervene under a clearly defined procedure. This happens when one currency hits its intervention level, or "floor", against another currency, such as happened in 1987 with the franc against the mark. Then, under the strict rules, the Bundesbank bought French francs, while the Bank of France sold marks.

Once the French ran out of marks, they needed to borrow marks from the Bundesbank under the ERM's swap facilities, which also constitute an integral element of the intervention rules. However, these loans have to be repaid afterwards, and it is for this reason that authorities with a weak currency are likely to lose their nerve first. Hence, the time period of intervention is often quite limited. If it fails, the result is usually



either a change in interest rates or a realignment — unless, of course, a government opts for more exotic measures, such as the imposition of capital controls.

France has tried a number of such measures, only to discover that the only successful strategy within the ERM is to maintain the currency's parity with the mark.

The founders also pinned high hopes on the second intervention mechanism, so-called intra-marginal intervention, which was a novelty at the time. This type of intervention is directed at preventing a currency from coming to the brink in the first place.

This mechanism is voluntary, and is triggered once a currency's so-called divergence indicator hits the 75 per cent mark. The indicator measures the extent to which a currency is nearing its maximum spread around its central rate against the Ecu. Sterling is in the wider band of the ERM and has a spread against the other currencies of about 6 per cent.

The divergence spread, however, is somewhat less than that because sterling is a constituent part of the Ecu, as is, indeed, every other currency.

The purpose of the indicator is to identify the currency that is diverging from the rest. The 75 per cent mark is a warning signal to central banks, which at this stage are allowed to intervene in a more flexible manner than is prescribed when a currency hits its floor. Once that happens, it is frequently too late.

The relative success of this intra-marginal intervention, which is currently taking place, will in the end determine whether interest rates have to go up in defence of the pound. In the end, what matters will be the market's view of the sustainability of sterling's present band.

In the short term, it is all up to the market speculators. A speculator would probably have only two reasons to bet on a sterling devaluation, or a general realignment. He might assume that the British economy will deteriorate further, which could in theory make pressure on the government to cut interest rates irresistible.

In the immediate future, he could assume that the French will vote against the Maastricht treaty at next month's referendum. That could, in theory, precipitate a wide-ranging realignment, or, though this is much less likely, even a collapse of the exchange-rate mechanism.

Despite the future, the last few days have been anything but unusual for the system itself. For sterling, it is the first real test since its entry two years ago.

The French experience suggests that yielding instantly under pressure only aggravates the problem later on. Once financial markets withdraw their confidence, it takes many years to regain that confidence.

During that time, interest rates would undoubtedly stay at an unhealthy premium.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Accounting for another book

WHERE UBS fears to tread, James Capel goes fearlessly. Hot on the heels of Terry Smith's controversial book, *Accounting for Growth*, James Capel is about to publish a weightier tome on the same subject. Called *Accounting Matters*, it will be sent, free, to chief investment officers within the big institutions on September 10. The task of coordinating the product of Capel's entire research department, with all top 100 companies analysed, and amounting to more than 600 pages, has fallen to Paul Walton, chief strategist. "Our approach is the antithesis of Terry Smith's book and I hope it does not have the same impact as his did," he says. "We have not set out to be confrontational and although companies have not been allowed to vet it, where there is anything contentious, we have made them aware of it." Although there will be no "buy" or "sell" recommendations, there will be two profit or loss forecasts for each company and Walton says he hopes it will become a reference manual for all fund managers. "We analyse the accounting standards used by every company, the impact of changes in accounting standards, and we have produced a new range of estimates by stripping out from earnings per share those things that flatter or suppress profits, so that we can assess the quality of earnings." The cost of producing the book is, he adds, "well into six figures".



Size matters

CHIQUITA Brands, the world's leading supplier of fresh fruit and vegetables, whose profits were slashed by competition last year, is test marketing a seven-inch banana. Nothing less than a nine-inch banana had been thought to satisfy American customers, but Chiquita, which sells almost half its bananas in Europe, has found a warm reception for the smaller variety. Surveys show the nine-inchers is too long for lunch boxes, too much for children and double the recommended dose in diet plans. Chiquita's shares, meanwhile, have fallen two-thirds to \$17 this year.

Biermann placing

HE MIGHT have a £16.5 million share placing hitting the market this morning, but unlike the Chancellor, Hugo Biermann is not going to have to cut short his holiday in America because of sterling's troubles. Biermann, 43, is chairman of Maddox, the ce-

ties and computer group. The placing, to pay for the acquisition of Wakebourne, a computer services company, is fully subscribed, not least by Biermann — he and Nicholas Toms, his partner, are spending £750,000 between them, increasing their joint stake to 14 per cent — and by another well known private investor, Jim Slater. Slater is clearly aware of Biermann's track record. Biermann bought Thompson T Line and then Vernons and, in 1989, sold the two to Ladbroke for £189 million. He denies he made £50 million profit from the deal. "I would rather say that the original investors in Thompson T Line came out with eight and a half times their money after a period of three years," he says.

Maastricht mania

WHAT a difference a referendum makes. French stores have been reporting huge interest in Maastricht-related books, even though the treaty is often criticised as being unreadable. FNAC, the country's biggest book chain, says sales of a 600-page guide to Maastricht have outstripped sales of a best seller about the Princess of Wales. The French government is also about to mail 43 million copies of the treaty to French households. In Britain, meanwhile, WH Smith's says such a book would have to be ordered. Even HMSO, which is selling the 135-page long, full reprint of *The Treaty on European Union* (the so-called Maastricht Treaty), has sold only 1,900 copies.

CAROL LEONARD

German blueprint for smaller firms

From Sir Michael Grylls, Conservative MP for Surrey North West. Sir Wolfgang Münchau's article (August 18) suggesting that the introduction into the UK of a version of Germany's KfW financial institution would level the playing field for smaller firms is timely. As Britain emerges from recession our smaller companies will need long term money at reasonable rates to sustain their growth.

Germany has made a great success of its government-owned credit institution. It has lent, medium to long-term, discretionary to German SMEs (eligible firms have an annual turnover up to DM500 million) over many years. In 1989 alone it committed loans via the banking system of DM7.3bn at interest rates between 6.75 per cent to 7.25 per cent. There was no subsidy of this rate by the German

government. These loans were incorporated by the German banks into financing packages for SMEs. It is not enough to claim that we have a market infrastructure in place which is capable of matching demand for and supply of capital when it is clear from the experience of the past two decades in this country that there is a mismatch of expectations and needs of many private business owners and those of institutional investors and lenders. Let us put our crucially important independent companies in a winning position. They must know that the cash flow cost of fixed investment is reasonably certain, so giving themselves the confidence to invest in new products and to re-equip.

Yours faithfully,
SIR MICHAEL GRYLLS,
Chairman,
Small Business Bureau,
House of Commons, SW1.

Can British firms borrow from KfW

From Corinna Schiffer, Sir Wolfgang Münchau's article (Aug 18) on the benefits of the German KfW lending institution was most interesting.

Could British business take advantage of its benefits? If the institution is a public body, which it appears to be, any restriction it may entertain as to the nationality of applicants could be found contrary to Article 7 of the Treaty of Rome as being "discrimination on grounds of nationality". The European Court of Justice has ruled that it is discriminatory for a state to grant a right subject to a condition of residence in its territory, when no such condition is imposed on nationals.

Yours faithfully,
C.A. SCHIFFER,
5 Pump Court,
EC4Y 7AP

On both sides of the fence at Lloyd's

From Mr D.H. Packman, Sir, Hard pressed names at Lloyd's are constantly reminded that the policyholder is their most important asset. Recently I found myself on both sides of the fence; a name with a claim on a stop loss policy placed at Lloyd's. The policy explicitly stated that claims would be paid within 30 days. It was 60 days before I received the cheque. The Lloyd's broker had twice submitted my claim on incorrect figures. The underwriter had rejected the claim and recalculated it again on wrong figures and Lloyd's had erroneously missed signing the claim through its own office costing an extra week.

In addition to chasing the broker I twice contacted Lloyd's authorities during that

period. Each time I was met by sympathy but little else. The market structure prevents Lloyd's from intervening in such cases. As a name I am expected to pay my losses on the due date or incur interest. Lloyd's does not apply the same rules to the payment of claims. I have to pay for their mistakes.

Surely self-regulation means having the ability and will to set standards for both policyholders and names. It must also provide remedy when these standards fail. We at Lloyd's must do better if we are to survive.

Yours faithfully,
D.H. PACKMAN,
1 Nevill Close,
Linslade,
Leighton Buzzard,
Bedfordshire.

Pensions sums

From J.A. Billcliffe, Sir, In his letter on state retirement pensions (Business letters, August 20) the Rev E Carson complains about the increase of just over 4 per cent in April 1992, which low figure he claims was almost entirely due to reductions in mortgage interest rates. Has he not conveniently forgotten that only the previous year the increase was no less than 10.9 per cent, largely due to increases in mortgage interest rates?

Yours faithfully,
J.A. BILLCLIFFE,
12 Regency Court,
Headingley,
Leeds.

Business letters to The Times can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

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LAW TIMES

A threat to the public's right to know worries Alastair Brett and Derek Currie

No win, no fee: free speech loses

As the row over photographs of a topless Duchess of York gathers pace, legislation to curb press intrusion or create a new offence of criminal trespass may not be long in coming.

More ominous for press freedom in this country is what is happening in the Lord Chancellor's Department, where officials are drafting proposals to allow lawyers in England and Wales to take on libel actions on a "no win, no fee" basis, as they can in Scotland.

If the threat of privacy legislation has soured relations between the news media and the government, the introduction of no win, no fee funding of libel actions in England and Wales without removing the right to trial by jury will lead to outright warfare between the press and the government. It would also be the last nail in the coffin of investigative journalism, and enable crooks and war criminals to stifle legitimate public comment on their past histories and criminal activities.

In Scotland, lawyers have for some time been able to work on a no win, no fee basis, provided the client has a reasonable prospect of success. Such work necessitates a high standard of professional ethics to avoid abuse and lawyers work on this basis only if the client cannot afford the litigation and the subject matter is of such importance that an injustice would be done if no action were taken.

Libel falls into this category. But at a time when jury awards in libel actions are fiercely criticised in England, jury trials are now on the increase in Scotland, where libel actions are usually heard by a judge alone.

A recent award in a Scottish case with a jury exceeded by nearly 700 per cent the previous record of libel damages handed down by a judge. Someone who has been

defamed in Scotland but who is unable to fund a court action may therefore be able to find lawyers who will enter into a no win, no fee arrangement, not least because the onus of proof is reversed in libel actions and placed firmly on the defender, often a newspaper or television company. If the defender wins the case, the plaintiff is short-lived when the company finds that the pursuer, as the plaintiff is called in Scotland, cannot meet the defender's costs.

A similar financial dilemma confronts defence lawyers in legal aid cases. This can lead to what is known as "legal aid blackmail": the pursuer or plaintiff's lawyer makes it clear early in the proceedings that from a commercial point of view, it would be more sensible for the defender to pay up rather than fight an expensive action with no hope of recovering any costs from the legal aid fund.

Is Lord Mackay passing a death sentence on investigative journalism?

The recent case of Gecas v. Scottish Television demonstrates the Catch-22 situation the media will in future face if the Scottish "no win, no fee" basis for funding libel actions comes south. Antanas Gecas, who was branded a war criminal in STV's programme *Crimes of War*, claimed £500,000 in libel damages from the company. After a four-week trial, which for seven days descended to Lithuania so that key evidence could be taken there, Gecas lost his action and Lord Millican in a ringing judgment referred to him as a man who had "committed war crimes against innocent civilians of all ages and both sexes".

But while the TV crew were celebrating a great libel victory, the financial repercussions

of fighting an action that had been fought on a "no win, no fee" basis were being digested by STV and its insurers. Gecas appears to be quite incapable of meeting the huge legal costs incurred by STV in proving its case. Luckily, they are covered by libel insurance but in many cases, newspapers and television companies have no insurance cover.

"Fynic victory" hardly describes the financial nightmare that actions of this kind can create. If STV had settled on day one of the libel action, it would have been thousands of pounds better off by apologising and paying £500,000 to a man now branded a "war criminal". This is the kind of system Lord Mackay of Clashfern is threatening to take south.

In England, those funding or "maintaining" civil proceedings can be pursued for costs by a successful defendant. In a Scottish "no win, no fee" case, there is no "maintainer" as such.

The lawyers acting for the pursuer effectively fund the action by not asking to be paid in advance but they are never ordered to pay the successful defender's costs. And there's the rub. It is because plaintiffs in libel actions are not eligible for legal aid that the Lord Chancellor is thinking of introducing the no win, no fee system. This would enable the less well off to seek redress when attacked in the media. That is wholly laudable and were the onus of proof to be placed firmly on a plaintiff, as in most civil actions, there would be no serious dissent from the media. But in the libel arena, a defendant is "guilty until proven innocent", a concept alien to every criminal lawyer, but one that newspaper lawyers live with on a daily basis.

With six-figure jury awards not uncommon in England and Wales, introducing a no win, no fee system without abolishing trial by jury in libel actions would invite speculation



Antanas Gecas: his libel case points up a media Catch-22

the actions of the worst kind and cause relations between Fleet Street and the government to sink to a new low.

To prevent serious misuse of such a system in defamation actions, the Lord Chancellor must give serious consideration to making plaintiffs prove that the article was (a) not in the public interest; (b) not in good faith (ie, the newspaper had refused to give the plaintiff a sensible right of reply and/or correct obvious inaccuracies); and (c) published before or without reasonable inquiries having been made (ie, the allegations, in appropriate cases, had not been put to the plaintiff for comment before publication).

Once these reforms were introduced and trial by jury in libel actions was abolished, as in Scotland, the Lord Chancellor might consider bringing his no win, no fee system south.

To do so before reforming the libel system in England and Wales would lead to the most serious erosion of free speech in this country since the Bill of Rights, 1689. Lord Mackay, is we hope, too bright and too sensible to want to be the Lord Chancellor who put on the black cap and sentenced free speech and investigative journalism to death in this country.

Alastair Brett is a company solicitor for Times Newspapers Limited. Derek Currie is a partner with Bird Simple Fyfe Ireland in Glasgow.

Giving claimants a real benefit

SOCIAL security payments account for nearly a third of all public expenditure. More than £1 billion is spent each week by the government on benefits and their administration. Yet social security law and procedure remain a jungle of complex rules, impenetrable to all but the specialist, rarely subject to independent scrutiny for fairness or consistency. Much-needed light has been thrown on the subject by John Baldwin, Nick Wikeley and Richard Young's book *Judging Social Security: The Adjudication of Claims for benefit in Britain* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, £25).

Social security has two main components. First, there are means-tested benefits designed to relieve poverty. These include income support and family credit. Second, there are benefits paid to those who have made contributions to cover specified risks, which include unemployment benefit, invalidity benefit and retirement pensions.

The research conducted by the authors involved visits to three types of institution: to local offices of the Department of Social Security, where most claims for benefit are determined by adjudication officers, to the offices of the Department of Employment which deal with claims for unemployment benefit, and to tribunals hearing appeals from these decisions.

The authors' conclusions on departmental adjudication are troubling. Adjudication officers do their best to consider cases independently and fairly, but so large is the volume of claims, and so complex the regulations to be applied, that "concerns are not in routine fashion in local offices as adjudication officers struggle to keep abreast of the workload". The independence of officers is under threat, not through any attempt by managers to influence particular decisions, but "by the sheer scale of work that has to be processed".

Of course, speed has to be balanced against accuracy in this context. It is no use telling a person in urgent need of income support that a decision will be given in a few months' time when the implications of the latest decision from the Court of Appeal have been fully considered. But it is plain from these findings that more resources are essential to improve the quality of decision-making on claims made by the weakest and most vulnerable sections of our society in circumstances that may be critical to their welfare.

The process of internal review of decisions also requires reform. As the authors suggest, any review should be carried out by a different person from the one responsible for the original decision, and if possible the review should be conducted by the officer

who will present the department's case before the tribunal if an appeal is brought.

The appeal procedures score more highly in this independent assessment. When a claim for benefit has been repeatedly rejected by officialdom, appellants — most of whom are unrepresented — might be expected to misunderstand and resent a tribunal which has the difficult duty of applying restrictive legal rules, whatever the justice of the cause.

Unsurprisingly, "very few of the appellants we interviewed regarded a visit to a social security appeal tribunal as an agreeable or interesting day out". Nevertheless, Baldwin and his colleagues found that "however we approached the question, it was apparent that most claimants thought that the tribunal had dealt fairly with their appeals". This is, indeed, "impressive testimony to the efforts made in recent years to create a more professional approach in social security adjudication". Regrettably, the authors patronise appellants by urging "caution" when interpreting these answers because "appellants may perceive hearings to be fair, but in certain respects they are not well placed to judge".

Gone, and rightly so, are the days (1975) when Lord Denning could assert, on behalf of the Court of Appeal, that the courts should be reluctant to interfere with decisions of appeal tribunals on points of social security law because the legislation "should be administered with as little technicality as possible. It should not become the happy hunting-ground for lawyers".

Baldwin and his colleagues remain pessimistic about the utility of the appellate process at higher levels when Parliament has a tendency to close loopholes that favour claimants as soon as they are revealed.

This is to underestimate the value of litigation as a source of reform and as a deterrent to unfair conduct by officials. It is unfortunate that the research did not cover the role of the social security commissioners, who hear appeals (about 1,000 a year) from the tribunals on points of law, and from whose decisions there is a further appeal to the Court of Appeal.

Baldwin, Wikeley and Young assert that "it is naive and artificial to view adjudication in a political vacuum or to assume that it can operate independently of its political and economic context. Readers may take or leave the politics of *Judging Social Security*. The factual information it provides about the working of the adjudication system cannot be ignored."

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



DAVID PANNICK QC

Obliged to act on suspicion

Financial advisers could go to jail if they fail to spot 'dirty money'

Money laundering proposals, to become law next year, to comply with a European Community directive, will make every employee and employer a potential policeman. Particular burdens will be on those thought most likely to have contact with "dirty" money, including banks, building societies, insurance companies, solicitors, accountants, stockbrokers and auctioneers.

The proposals, surprisingly little publicised, are given in "Implementation of the EC Money Laundering Directive", a Treasury document circulated in May to various representative bodies.

The idea is that reducing the opportunities for criminals to launder their gains through the financial and business markets should ultimately discourage the crimes. The attack on laundering must be EC-wide. A state with inadequate defences would become a magnet for dirty money.

To comply with the EC directive, the legislation need only cover drug dealing money, but the government has invited views on whether the proceeds of other crimes should be covered. The police will probably press for the Act

to extend beyond drug proceeds. This might be welcomed by some, who would prefer not to have to speculate about the nature of the crime involved.

Few will complain about the proposed new offences, involving up to 14 years' jail, of knowingly acquiring, possessing or using drug money. This will merely extend the existing range of offences arising from drug money laundering. The striking change will be the duty to report suspicions of money laundering. At present there is no general obligation to report a crime. In future, however, anybody who, in the course of work, learns or suspects that another person is engaged in money laundering must report the suspect. Failure to do so will be punishable with up to five years' jail.

To avoid potential difficulties in proving knowledge of the money's origins, the EC directive requires the legislation to say this "may be inferred from objective factual circumstances". But what of the defendant who was not sufficiently worldly to recognise the indicators?

Those likely to receive dirty money will acquire more onerous, and potentially expensive, duties, without any hint of



financial assistance from the government. Breach of the new duties, however, will be punishable by up to two years' jail. Professional bodies such as the Law Society and the self-regulating organisations under the Financial Services Act will have to be sure that their members have the necessary systems. For example, clients must be asked to supply evidence of identity if the relationship is to be a continuing one, if a transaction for an occasional client involves more than £10,000 or if a transaction involving less than that sum suggests money laundering.

The staff training must include familiarisation with the organisation's procedures and record-keeping, the recognition of factors indicating suspicious transactions, the obligation to report them to the

authorities and an understanding of the offences created by the legislation.

There will inevitably be an additional price to pay in terms of loss of confidence between a client and his professional advisers.

A client will be taken back to learn that a visit from the police results from his own solicitor's or stockbroker's concern about the origins of the money he wants to expend on a weekend retreat or some Marks & Spencer shares. He may believe he should have been warned that the police had been alerted. That, however, would expose the solicitor or broker to five years' inside for an offence called "tipping off" in the Treasury's consultation document.

In recent years there has been a steady flow of legislation removing the historic "right to silence" and creating obligations to answer questions from the authorities. The money laundering legislation will go a stage further by requiring people to take the initiative in reporting their suspicions. This is all part of the constant battle to strike a balance between the freedom of the individual and the detection of crime.

MICHAEL CHANCE & CHRISTY SINCLAIR
The authors are with Cameron Mackay Hewitt, a firm of City solicitors.

Drunks who came up before Eric Crowther got more than a sentence

Stipendiary magistrates were good copy for the press 30 years ago. There were regular columns in evening papers relating their *bona mots* as they dispatched a line of golden-hearted if grubby drunks, street traders and prostitutes before disappearing to the Garrick or Beefsteak for lunch.

On retirement, the magistrate — eg, J.D. Sandbach, Edward Robey and Claude Mullins — would produce a small volume, sometime two, of *penitus ardens*. Then the tradition died.

In *Look what's on the Bench*, it has been revived by Eric Crowther, who sat first at West London for many a long year and then Horseferry Road.

Crowther was in a rather different mould. There were certainly the *bona mots* which could be recorded by his colleagues and the annoyance of some of the others who starred in the court system, he actually began to take more

Plain tales from the bench

than a humorous interest in the flosses washed up on his bench four days a week. The line of 20 drunks could no longer be dismissed in three and a half minutes flat. Crowther, to the horror of the duty probation officer who considered the workload already intolerable, began to try to guide them away from drink. It was the same with anyone who appeared before him. The result may not have been what the defendant desired but nobody was treated with less than kindness.

These memoirs cover his years as a stipendiary magistrate and follow *Last in*

the List, his account of his years as an advocate. Entertaining as they are, they will be appreciated most by those — now a breed facing extinction — who remember those haunts of the profession such as Peter Rusk, the Russian lawyer who gave ties and chocolates to police and co-defendants alike. Rusk gets, if not perhaps merits, a whole chapter to himself.

Later in the book, Crowther has some telling slideslides at such things as the bail laws, cited the example of his deliberate and successful flouting of the 1976 Act, and sentencing provisions. Along the way there are pages of jokes, stories old and new and reminiscences of other members of the bench and the profession. He proves to be a worthy wearer of the mantle of the literary stipend.

JAMES MORTON

The author is editor of the New Law Journal. *Eric Crowther's Look what's on the Bench* is published by Barry Rose (£12.50).

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Justine Lister

Essex benefit from fruitless round of matches

Robinson's target proves too stiff for Leicestershire

By IVO TENNANT

LEICESTER (final day of three): Leicestershire (7pts) drew with Nottinghamshire (5)

IF EVER there was a round of championship matches for Essex to be heartened to miss, this was it. None of the pretenders to their title and leadership of the table, Kent, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Middlesex and Nottinghamshire, gained as many as eight bonus points as a result of a succession of rain-affected draws.

Thus Essex have a lead of 24 points with, crucially, at least one match in hand on most of their challengers. Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire made what they could of the final day at Grace Road through an unexpected but imaginative declaration by Robinson, but the loss of 36 overs through rain on Saturday ultimately proved to be insurmountable.

It took Nottinghamshire until mid-afternoon before they had sufficient runs to contemplate leaving Leicestershire a target. A four-and-a-half hour century by Broad, his fifth of the season, was thoroughly commendable. Yet there was no discernible attempt after he was out to do anything about improving the run rate, and Briers, Leicestershire's captain, had no intention of offering his opponents cheap runs.

So Nottinghamshire's declaration, leaving Leicestershire to make 178 in half an hour plus 20 overs, was a surprise in

COUNTY TABLE

	P	W	L	D	NS	PP
Essex (1)	18	8	5	5	54	232
Kent (2)	17	7	2	10	53	226
Leeds (3)	20	7	8	7	38	225
Northants (10)	19	6	4	9	54	200
Middlesex (15)	19	5	13	5	52	189
Nottingham (16)	18	5	7	4	46	185
Warwick (2)	18	5	7	6	47	182
Surrey (5)	19	5	6	8	50	175
Gloucestershire (13)	19	5	5	9	40	170
Derby (1)	18	4	8	3	35	169
Hampshire (9)	19	4	5	10	33	166
Sussex (11)	18	4	6	8	51	164
Yorkshire (14)	19	4	5	10	50	163
Lancashire (8)	19	3	5	11	44	158
Somerset (17)	18	3	3	12	54	157
Worcestershire (7)	19	3	4	12	46	151
Gloucestershire (12)	18	2	11	4	42	131
Durham (4)	19	2	8	9	37	117

includes standard match

itself. Robinson is not famed for adventurous captaincy and, indeed, he did not take the field owing to a chest injury. There was a pointer to the future when Crawley, in the absence of the injured Johnson, was asked to deputise. It could be that we have all become too used to joke bowling and collisions to recognise that such a finish as this is still feasible through proper cricket.

For Leicestershire, with nothing to lose and second place in the table to gain, initially had a stab at scoring at a little more than six an over. Nottinghamshire brought on their spinners, Hemmings and Afford, as early as they dared. They took six wickets between them, and deservedly so.

With the exception of Briers, who was in throughout the innings, there was nothing scientific about Leicestershire's batting. Whitaker opened with the captain and

was bowled swinging wildly at a long hop in Hemmings' first over. In the last over before the final 20, Benson tried something humorous and was stumped by some distance.

Benjamin was promoted to slog and, trying to fetch everything to leg, inevitably did not stay for long. Randall held a finely judged, slithering catch at wide mid-on. Four of Potter's first five runs came through overthrows and, with Briers driving strongly in the arc between mid-on and mid-wicket, 82 off the last ten overs was still not out of the question.

This kind of task, after all, might well await Leicestershire in glomming such as this in the West final next month. Their difficulty now, though, was that their stroke-makers and sole slogger had come and gone. Potter, whose game is essentially an orthodox one, was held at deep mid-off attempting something foreign to his nature.

All depended now on Briers, and he understandably settled for falling back on defence. Nottinghamshire crowded the bat for the remaining five overs — from which Leicestershire needed 60 — and although Hemmings bowled Nixon and an influenza-stricken Boon was snuffed by Afford, attempting to cut. Briers was steadfast. His second half-century of the match came off 79 balls and included eight fours. No one had been more surprised than him by the declaration, although as a schoolmaster, he should know all about the avoidance of dull draws.



Nothing to shout about: De Freitas, the England bowler, has an appeal for leg before against Ramiz Raja turned down as the Pakistan opener embarks on a run at Old Trafford yesterday. Report, page 26

Three-day era finds damp end

EVEN the heavens wept to mark the demise of three-day county championship cricket (Geoffrey Wheeler writes).

Rain washed out five of the last seven games under the age-old format and a definite result was obtained in only one of them, at Bradford, where Surrey, among the leading advocates for change, beat Yorkshire, who have been doughty defenders of the status quo, by one wicket.

Fortunes swung first one way then the other at Park Avenue after a declaration and forfeiture to make up for almost the complete loss of Saturday.

Surrey set 303 in what proved to be 93 overs, were sitting pretty at tea at 191 for four with Thorpe and Alistair Brown, an exciting young player, going well. With eight runs added both were out. Feltham and Martin Bicknell took the score to 268 before three wickets fell for 14, leaving the last pair, Kendrick and Boiling, to score the last 20 off 40 balls. They had two balls in hand at the end.

By the time the rain arrived at New Road, Durham were safe from defeat against Worcestershire, Paul Parker leading them out of trouble with an entertaining innings of 94, which included 20 boundaries, four in one over off Siemp. Parker and Bainbridge put on 145 for the second wicket.

Sussex are frustrated by a downpour in run chase

By JACK BAILEY

HOVE (final day of three): Sussex (2pts) drew with Middlesex (5)

IN SO far as anything could be well balanced on this curiously slow Hove pitch which always loaded the dice in favour of the batsman, the game was poised when the rains came. Sussex had been set to score 322 to win from 80 overs by Gating, whose only chance of victory lay in setting a reasonable target.

Although Sussex had seen the asking rate rise from four to five an over after the early batsmen had built a platform, the odds still lay marginally in their favour before the game

was abandoned in mid-afternoon.

Hall and Lentham had carried Sussex to 79 for one. Hall, unburied and solid, had taken his score to 41 with a couple of fours off Taylor, by now handicapped with a wet ball as the drizzle set in. But as a steady downpour materialised, Hall was left 32 runs short of his 1,000 runs for the season and, more important, Middlesex were well short of the sort of points tally that they required to take more than a faltering step closer to Essex in the race for the Britannic Assurance Championship.

Throughout the match the pitch yielded on average 70

runs per wicket. One of the main problems Middlesex have had to face this season has been the lack of consistent penetration in their attack, but it would have been interesting to see Sussex cope with the spin of Embury and Tunnell if the run-rate had crept any higher.

Alan Wells had no hesitation in declaring his first innings closed first thing yesterday morning, seven wickets remaining and 258 runs behind. Middlesex found 50 minutes of a mixed bag of bowling long enough to achieve their aim, and the stage was set for an interesting finish.

Roseberry had indulged his passion for batting while Brown achieved some much needed practice. Middlesex keeping has not gone hand in hand with prolific scoring for him — before Gating led his men out for the last time. He did so with the chipiness which has come this season from so many good things, including the lifting of the England ban and his own form with the bat.

Williams was used as the main prong in the Middlesex attack and he was soon rewarded when he bowled David Smith off his pads with a ball of full length which Smith was aiming to drive. After that, Hall and Lentham took few chances. In the light of what was to come, it was just as well.

Waugh stands firm

MATARA: A chanceless century by Mark Waugh saved the Australians from embarrassment on the opening day of their three-day match against a Southern Province Combined XI here yesterday.

Waugh, who batted for 197 minutes and hit one six and 11 fours for his 118, figured in two stands which helped the Australians to a total of 312 for nine. His hundred was the first by an Australian on their tour of Sri Lanka.

The fast-medium bowlers, Wijegunawardena and Lyanage, reduced the Australians to 70 for three and later 132 for five after they had won

the toss and decided to bat on a slow pitch.

Waugh, coming in at the fall of the third wicket at 70, shared a fourth-wicket partnership of 54 in 52 minutes with Martyn, who made an attractive 61 in his first match of the tour. He then added 125 in 131 minutes for the sixth wicket with Healy.

Waugh was out to a mistimed drive off Nishantha Ranasingha, the younger brother of the Sri Lanka captain, Arjuna Ranasingha, and caught at mid-on by Wijegunawardena.

SCORES: Australia 312 for 9 (M Waugh 118, A Healy 70 not out, D Martyn 61, R Wijegunawardena 4 for 58).

YACHTING

Weather clamps down on Slade

By BARRY PICKTHALL

MIKE Slade and his leading round-Britain-race maxi, Ocean Leopard, returned to Cowes disappointed yesterday after finishing almost 20 hours outside Robin Knox-Johnston's 16-year-old monohull record for the circumnavigation.

The previous 48 hours had provided some of the harshest conditions met during the 1,860 mile course with gale-force head winds and huge seas battering, if not the 80ft maxi, certainly some crew members close to the point of submission. "The last two days have been fairly unpleasant," Slade admitted after stepping thankfully back on to land at Cowes. "I've been seasick most of the time. Please don't make me enter again next year."

Behind Ocean Leopard, the fleet stretched back more than 400 miles with the training yacht, Harlepool Renais-sance, close to her home port, bringing up the rear. Slade and his crew also left behind them a tense battle for the overall handicap honours.

The strong westerly winds, forecast to reach force 8-9 overnight, will help Chris Lint's 45ft Beneteau production yacht, Boulder, to maintain her lead over Matthew Humphries's Youth Challenge crew. If the conditions persist for a further 24 hours, the Mike Taylor-Jones skippered yacht, Deestalker, one of the smallest yachts in the fleet which left Harlepool at 2pm yesterday, could well steal everyone's thunder.

RESULT: Total elapsed time: Ocean Leopard (41 days 10 hours 52 mins).

FOOTBALL

FA Premier League

Crystal Palace v Sheffield Wed (8.0)
Everton v Aston Villa
Ipswich v Liverpool (all tickets, 7.45)
Leeds v Tottenham
Sheffield Utd v Wimbledon (7.45)

Barclays League

First division
Charlton v Bristol Rovers (7.45)
Notts County v Watford (7.45)
Coca-Cola Cup

First round, second leg

First leg score at brackets:

Barnet (0) v Peterborough (4) (7.45)

Barnet (1) v Gillingham (1) (7.45)

Birmingham (1) v Cardiff (1) (7.45)

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Northants yield to elements

By RICHARD STREETON

NORTHAMPTON (final day of three): Northamptonshire (4pts) drew with Kent (1)

KNOWING that the winners would close the gap on Essex, the championship leaders, these sides continued playing in the rain yesterday in desperate effort to secure 16 crucial points. Half an hour after tea, though, the players finally yielded to the weather. By then, Northamptonshire were the better placed to fulfil their ambition.

Northamptonshire had been set to make 253 in 69 overs and still needed 145 from 28 overs, with nine wickets in hand, when the match was abandoned. The declaration had seemed generous on a pitch which had become increasingly docile, compared with its unpredictable behaviour earlier, but its merit was that both teams had a chance to win.

As things turned out, only two wickets fell in the four and a half hours' play that was possible after Bailey and Benson had discussed how they could salvage a result from a match, in which a mere 22

overs had been possible on Saturday. A marvelous morning as Kent made 141 for one from 33 overs before declaring ten minutes before lunch.

Northamptonshire stuck to their regular bowlers, who were ruthlessly punished by Ward. He was left undefeated with a chanceless 95, made from 89 balls and including a six and 11 fours. Few opening batsmen in county cricket can devastate opposing bowlers



Bailey: opted for win

like Ward when he is in the mood and he is more consistent than most.

Drives, pulls and square cuts brought him his runs. For the second time in the game Benson was caught behind against a ball that bounced more than most, but Taylor stayed with Ward as runs were easily accumulated.

Fordham and Felton, one of the most reliable opening partnerships, gave Northamptonshire a sound start with 80 in 42 overs. McCague, who may have been the object of the visit by Fred Titmus, an England observer, caused the batsmen the most concern in the Kent attack.

McCague was unfortunate when, with the total 25 and Felton on six, the left-hander edged a ball over the slips and Ellison, running in from deep third man, almost hung to a hard chance.

Just before tea Fordham lifted a drive against Hooper and Fleming took a good, diving catch at mid-off. Drizzle had been falling for some time and it became heavier after the interval, finally forcing the players to go off.

YORKSHIRE v SURREY

BRADFORD (final day of three): Surrey (10pts) beat Yorkshire (4) by one wicket

YORKSHIRE: First innings 341 (S A Kettle 78, D Bates 70, N M Benjamin 5 for 16)

SURREY: First innings 303 (A Thorpe 118, Alistair Brown 61, R Bicknell 14, Kendrick 20 off 40 balls)

Second innings

D J Bicknell bowled to 13

G P Thorpe c Martin Bicknell 79

M A Lynch c Pickett & Bailey 43

M W Ward c Gillingham & Bailey 38

A D Brown c Kettle & Bailey 35

M A Pickett bowled to 24

N M Benjamin not out 18

R E Bryson bowled to 19

J Belling not out 10

Score (to 10, no 6)

Total (6 wickets)

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-34, 3-47, 4-127, 5-196, 6-199, 7-288, 8-288, 9-282

BOWLING: James 19.4-26-3; Hartley 17.4-31-1; Pickett 11.2-12-0; Bailey 39.7-114-2; Grayson 10-2-20-0

Umpires: A A Jones and R C Tolchard

Leeds v Norths

LEICESTER (second day of three): Leicestershire (7pts) drew with Nottinghamshire (5)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First innings 169 (G J Parsons 4 for 50, W K M Benjamin 4 for 88)

Second innings

B C Broad c Nixon & Gillingham 102

D W Randall bowled to 30

R T Pottinger c Parsons & Bailey 24

M A Crawley c Benson & Benjamin 9

P A Fisher not out 22

M Sooty not out 22

Score (to 4, 0, 7, 2)

Total (4 wickets)

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-81, 2-88, 3-112, 4-218

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Schofield believes Leeds have found successful formula

By Christopher Irvine

LEEDS have had their dream teams before, usually made up of exceptional soloists who failed to gel as an effective combination. When Doug Laughton, an alchemist among coaching's base metal merchants, confides to the discovery of the correct formula this time, then maybe the long-time but apparent can at last lay a legitimate claim.

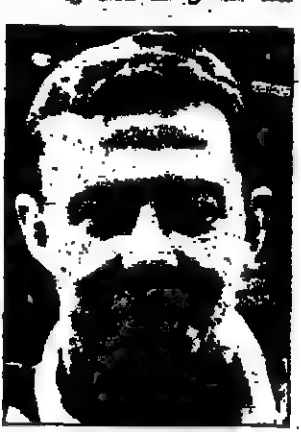
If Laughton does indeed have it right, then it is at the creative axis of loose forward, stand-off and scrum half where Ellery Hanley, Garry Schofield and Andy Gregory form an irresistible force. In five years at Headingley, Schofield, 27, has been the club's one brilliantly consistent figure amid the many highly-priced imports and panic purchases. One Yorkshire Cup, in 1988, is small change from an outlay over five years of approaching £3.5 million.

"Appealing really, isn't it?" Schofield said. "You just can't go out and buy instant success, as we've discovered time and again. But this time there has been a more carefully thought-out process. Our strengths are

not in just one place, where we've fallen down before, but throughout the side.

"We've addressed the problems of the pace of the pack and our overall strength in depth. Doug has also got into everyone the real desire you need, and we've put a stop to one of our problems: shooting each year about what we're going to do. We'll be judged match by match."

The game, generally, is trusting that Laughton can



Schofield: optimistic

pull out at least one plum. The club's last Challenge Cup was 14 years ago; their third and final league championship came six years before that. A strong Leeds is equated with a strong game, and is needed to counterbalance Wigan and Lancashire domination. As the only club not scratching around for money, Leeds have once again plundered the market. The difference, according to Laughton, is that he has assembled just about his model side.

With Alan Tait at full back and Jim Fallon, the former England B rugby union wing joining New Zealander Craig Innes, another fast-developing convert from the other code, Laughton has assembled one of the fastest and most powerful attacking units.

He has brought penetrative bulk to a pack, with the New Zealand international, Gary Mercer, introduced as the workhorse to make up yardage through the middle. The utility forward, Mick Wozniak, arrived yesterday from Salford, in a swap deal involving Phil Ford. But the signing of the Australian forward, Mark Geyer, is off because the player damaged a knee in a car accident in Sydney over the weekend. But enquiries have already been made about another overseas player and there could be developments before the opening league game.

At the end of their last injury-plagued season, in which Leeds were surprisingly beaten 24-0 by Widnes in the Regal Trophy final and slumped to eight defeats in their last 11 league matches, Martin Offiah's romp in Wigan's 74-6 win in the Premiership semi-final was the most bitter humiliation. Schofield insists that the pride is back. The series of setbacks, frustrated signings, still have to be convinced. The task of doing so starts at Headingley on Sunday against an equally ambitious St Helens.



THE Paralympics are only ten days away, and while the focus of attention is on the top athletes and medal hopes, the Games are also an opportunity to encourage children with disabilities to participate in sport at all levels (Alix Ramsay writes).

BBC Television's sports programme for children, *We Are The Champions*, presented by Gary Lineker, celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year.

Sport for children with disabilities was first introduced to the show nine years ago, and it is now devoted entirely to children with special needs.

IN BRIEF

O'Sullivan lines up a record

Ronnie O'Sullivan, 16, equalled the record for the number of century breaks in competition by a first-season snooker professional - 17, by Anthony Hamilton - in the Asian Open at Blackpool yesterday. O'Sullivan's 5-0 win over Ray Edmonds was his 22nd 5-0 win at the Blackpool qualifying school.

Britons begin well

Bridge: Britain's open team beat Hong Kong 18-12, Ireland 24-6, and Mexico 21-9 to end Sunday in second position behind Denmark in their half of the world team Olympiad in Salsomaggiore, Italy. Yesterday Britain beat Japan 16-14. Britain's women yesterday beat Denmark, the 1988 winners, 22-8, for their third win.

Problem solved

Bowls: Ann Bryant, the partially sighted woman who was disqualified from the Somerset county championships for receiving assistance, was allowed to use a monocular to align the jack during her 21-9 loss to Peggy Groves at the Weston-super-Mare open singles yesterday.

Courts matchless

Yachting: Russell Courts, of New Zealand, displaced Chris Dickson as match racing world champion when he defeated Kevin Mahaney, of the United States, 2-0 in the final of Long Beach. Mahaney had beaten Dickson 2-1.

Wales falter

Hockey: Wales's hopes of a semi-final place in the European junior championship faded yesterday after a 1-1 draw with Czechoslovakia in Vught, Holland.

Krabbe banned

Athletics: At a final hearing in Frankfurt yesterday, the German athletics federation imposed four-year bans on Katrin Krabbe and Grit Breuer for failing drug tests.

London defence

Bowling: Colin McMillan will defend his World Bowling Organisation featherweight title, against Ruben Palacio, from Colombia, at Olympia, London, on September 26.

Platt wins improved contract with Wigan

A NEW two-year deal with Andy Platt, widely rated the best forward in the world, has given a significant boost to Wigan ahead of the new season which they start at the Don Valley Stadium against Sheffield Eagles on Friday (Christopher Irvine writes).

Platt, 27, arrived at a compromise agreement yesterday on his demand for an improved contract. The player was alternatively looking at a move to the Sydney club, Parramatta, which, until now, probably have excluded him from Great Britain's World Cup final team to face Australia at Wembley on October 24. "Andy's decision is fantastic

news. Both parties had to bend a little on the deal," Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman said.

The Rugby Football League yesterday asked two Wigan players, Martin Offiah and Kevin Skerrett, for an explanation of their non-attendance at the medal presentation after the Chelmsford game at Gateshead on Sunday.

Leigh have agreed a short-term contract deal with the Australian forward, John Eales, 24, of Bathurst, New South Wales, after failing to sign his team-mate, Tim Brasher, St Helens have signed Chris Joynt, the Great Britain under-21 forward, from Oldham.

Paris can challenge big two in France

By Peter Robinson

THE two-horse race in the French league is over. Where once Marseilles and AS Monaco could carve up the silverware in French football between them, there is, suddenly, a rival to the champion and the No. 1 contender, Paris-Saint-Germain.

Cleverly rebuilt during the summer, Saint-Germain perhaps the most astute signing on the continent during the close season - George Weah, the brilliant and powerful Liberian forward. Throughout Monaco's dog-

ged and determined pursuit of Marseilles in recent seasons, Weah was their spearhead, but when they, strangely, decided the time had come for a change in personnel, Saint-Germain stepped in.

On Saturday, the Parisiens overwhelmed Strasbourg 4-0 away from home. Weah scored twice in a four-minute spell, following Fournier's strike and preceding Calderaro's, as Saint-Germain rattled up their third win in their first three games.

"There's not much you can do when you play a team that strong," Gilbert Gress, the Strasbourg coach, said afterwards. "All I can do is wish good luck to the other teams who will meet them."

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE	Chickens	Pace	1
Montreal Expos	70	84	88
Philadelphia Phillies	68	81	85
San Francisco Giants	67	80	84
Los Angeles Dodgers	66	79	83
San Diego Padres	65	78	82
New York Mets	64	77	81
Florida Marlins	63	76	80
Atlanta Braves	62	75	79
West division			
Atlanta Braves	68	80	87
San Diego Padres	67	79	86
San Francisco Giants	66	78	85
Houston Astros	65	77	84
Los Angeles Dodgers	64	76	83
Arizona Diamondbacks	63	75	82
San Jose Giants	62	74	81
San Jose Giants	61	73	80
San Jose Giants	60	72	79
San Jose Giants	59	71	78
San Jose Giants	58	70	77
San Jose Giants	57	69	76
San Jose Giants	56	68	75
San Jose Giants	55	67	74
San Jose Giants	54	66	73
San Jose Giants	53	65	72
San Jose Giants	52	64	71
San Jose Giants	51	63	70
San Jose Giants	50	62	69
San Jose Giants	49	61	68
San Jose Giants	48	60	67
San Jose Giants	47	59	66
San Jose Giants	46	58	65
San Jose Giants	45	57	64
San Jose Giants	44	56	63
San Jose Giants	43	55	62
San Jose Giants	42	54	61
San Jose Giants	41	53	60
San Jose Giants	40	52	59
San Jose Giants	39	51	58
San Jose Giants	38	50	57
San Jose Giants	37	49	56
San Jose Giants	36	48	55
San Jose Giants	35	47	54
San Jose Giants	34	46	53
San Jose Giants	33	45	52
San Jose Giants	32	44	51
San Jose Giants	31	43	50
San Jose Giants	30	42	49
San Jose Giants	29	41	48
San Jose Giants	28	40	47
San Jose Giants	27	39	46
San Jose Giants	26	38	45
San Jose Giants	25	37	44
San Jose Giants	24	36	43
San Jose Giants	23	35	42
San Jose Giants	22	34	41
San Jose Giants	21	33	40
San Jose Giants	20	32	39
San Jose Giants	19	31	38
San Jose Giants	18	30	37
San Jose Giants	17	29	36
San Jose Giants	16	28	35
San Jose Giants	15	27	34
San Jose Giants	14	26	33
San Jose Giants	13	25	32
San Jose Giants	12	24	31
San Jose Giants	11	23	30
San Jose Giants	10	22	29
San Jose Giants	9	21	28
San Jose Giants	8	20	27
San Jose Giants	7	19	26
San Jose Giants	6	18	25
San Jose Giants	5	17	24
San Jose Giants	4	16	23
San Jose Giants	3	15	22
San Jose Giants	2	14	21
San Jose Giants	1	13	20

FOOTBALL

LEAGUE OF IRELAND	League	1
Shamrock Rovers	10	10
Dublin City	9	9
Sligo Rovers	8	8
Wexford	7	7
Galway Rovers	6	6
Widow's Quay	5	5
Blackrock	4	4
Bohemians	3	3
St. Patrick's	2	2
St. James's	1	1

CONCACAF ZONE

CONCACAF ZONE	World Cup qualifying	1
USA	10	10
Mexico	9	9
Costa Rica	8	8
Paraguay	7	7
Guatemala	6	6
Honduras	5	5
El Salvador	4	4
Nicaragua	3	3
Panama	2	2
Jamaica	1	1

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE	Chickens	Pace	1
Montreal Expos	70	84	88
Philadelphia Phillies	68	81	85
San Francisco Giants	67	80	84
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San Jose Giants	60	72	79
San Jose Giants	59	71	78
San Jose Giants	58	70	77
San Jose Giants	57	69	76
San Jose Giants	56	68	75
San Jose Giants	55	67	74
San Jose Giants	54	66	73
San Jose Giants	53	65	72
San Jose Giants	52	64	71
San Jose Giants	51	63	70
San Jose Giants	50	62	69
San Jose Giants	49	61	68
San Jose Giants	48	60	67
San Jose Giants	47	59	66
San Jose Giants	46	58	65
San Jose Giants	45	57	64
San Jose Giants	44	56	63
San Jose Giants	43	55	62
San Jose Giants	42	54	61
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San Jose Giants	28	40	47
San Jose Giants	27	39	46
San Jose Giants	26	38	45
San Jose Giants	25	37	44
San Jose Giants	24	36	43
San Jose Giants	23	35	42
San Jose Giants	22	34	41
San Jose Giants	21	33	40
San Jose Giants	20	32	39
San Jose Giants	19	31	38
San Jose Giants	18	30	37
San Jose Giants	17	29	36
San Jose Giants	16	28	35
San Jose Giants	15	27	34
San Jose Giants	14	26	33
San Jose Giants	13	25	32
San Jose Giants	12	24	31
San Jose Giants	11	23	30
San Jose Giants	10	22	29
San Jose Giants	9	21	28
San Jose Giants	8	20	27
San Jose Giants	7	19	26
San Jose Giants	6	18	25
San Jose Giants	5	17	24
San Jose Giants	4	16	23
San Jose Giants	3	15	22
San Jose Giants	2	14	21
San Jose Giants	1	13	20

FOOTBALL

LEAGUE OF IRELAND	League	1
Shamrock Rovers	10	10
Dublin City	9	9
Sligo Rovers	8	8
Wexford	7	7
Galway Rovers	6	6
Widow's Quay	5	5
Blackrock	4	4
Bohemians	3	3
St. Patrick's	2	2
St. James's	1	1

CONCACAF ZONE

CONCACAF ZONE	World Cup qualifying	1
USA	10	10
Mexico	9	9
Costa Rica	8	8
Paraguay	7	7
Guatemala	6	6
Honduras	5	5
El Salvador	4	4
Nicaragua	3	3
Panama	2	2
Jamaica	1	1

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE



PARENTS p5
Painful
images:
pictures that
provoke pity



LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY AUGUST 25 1992

MEDIA p4
Television
tunes into
a strange
new world



OPENING LINES

A cheapskate, a charlatan... and a charmer

Or look at that bugger, then. Sitting there with his great flat face, two hundred yards from ear to ear. Two hundred? Two hundred — I just paced it out. It's taking up half Victoria Street. The Department of Trade and Industry, that's its name. No, but just look at that great smug face! You don't know what I'm thinking — it's written all over it.

The DTI. Right. We'll come to you in time, my son, never you fear. We done Environment, round the back in Marsham Street. I just been up there taking a look at it, having a bit of a gloat. One whole block, they occupy. Environment and Transport between them, size of St Paul's Cathedral, with three skyscrapers on top of it looking down their noses at the rest of us. Didn't keep us out, though. That story about asbestos dumping — that was ours. Someone rang me — don't know who it was. Then I rang someone. But the right someone at the right time, that's my contribution. And there we was on the nine o'clock, third tier in.

Done Employment, over there in Tothill Street. Done them more than once. And the MOD. Gone through them five times, no less. Remember the Warrington Report? Remember Jet Trainers, and the one about that bright spark in the ordnance depot, got these brand-new armoured personnel carriers plus he's got an old school chum in the scrap metal business?

Always someone bursting to tell. It's the pressure. Like the garden hose. Put your finger over the nozzle and what happens? It pisses over the back of your trousers.

Nothing coming out of the Treasury, so I went in. Me and all the stars of *Smart Money*. Back in Nigel Lawson's day, this was. "We come to take a look at the Chancellor's Budget proposals, see how they affect future episodes." Got Tom Nathanson waiting outside with the Nikon. Always rely on old Tom to turn out when you got something a bit cheeky. We're all going to be chucked down the front steps, that's the plan — nice exclusive for him, nice plug for the show. "Hold on," says Security. Gets on the blower. Down comes a fellow from the Press Office, Mike Pomeroy, old sparring partner of mine, not a bad sort, takes one look at me, great grin. "Oh, it's you," he says. "I might have guessed. Nice one, Terry." I was afraid he was going to ask us in, give us all a drink and a press release, leave poor old Tom standing out there in the cold.

Lovely snap of Mike showing us out, anyway. *Mirror* — inside page but not too far back — "Nigel says No to the Money."

One I hate's the Home Office. Got a real down on that bugger. Great concrete tower, looks like a Swiss bank. Feet tucked away up there in Queen Anne's Gate, hoping nobody'll notice. Head sticking up over the trees, keeping an eye on everyone. It might be me they're



Michael Frayn's *Now You Know*, second of five extracts from new autumn novels, tells the story of Terry, a wide

boy with a bit of form and a mission to rip open the doors of government. The first two chapters are printed here

looking at. Then again it might be you, my son. I'm paranoid? All right, I'm paranoid. Let's get it opened up — let's get it all down on the ground and spread out in the sunlight. Then we'll see.

We never done much good with the Home Office, I don't know why. We got the story about the Police National Computer Organization, but Liz put that together in the office — sussed it out from the trade papers and journals, like she done a lot of our things. Look at it — fourteen floors, and not a sign of life. And inside, I know, there's all hell going on. The Hassam case. Found dead in his cell Saturday night. So then last night, Sunday, there's half the West Midlands out on the street rioting. Where are we now? Ten past four — they should have finished working out what happened. They'll be working out how to stop anyone else working it out.

You wait, my old son. One of these days the trumpet will sound, and the walls will come tumbling down, and all manner of things shall stand revealed. Even at Trade and Industry. Even at the Home Office.

CHAPTER 2

I'm going down the House, have a chat with one or two people, see what the word on the Hassam business is.

Two women coming along the street, one of them stares at me, then nudges her friend. Don't ask her if it's me, love — ask me. I'm the expert. I'll tell you. Tell you anything you want to know. Tell anyone.

Is it me? — Yes, it is. How old am I? — Sixty-one. I don't look it? — I know I don't. Height? — Six foot two. Weight? — Fifteen stone, and most of it still above the waterline.

What's my greatest satisfaction in life? — The Campaign. Being Director of the Campaign.

How much do they pay me? — Fourpence halfpenny a week. I'll show you my bank statement.

What's my greatest regret? — No kids.

That it? Curiosity satisfied? Don't want to know about my sex-life? Oh, you do. All right, fire away. Are me and Jacqui still... you know? — You mean, are we still doing it? Yes, we are.

How often? — Often than you might think, you nosy bugger.

Who else have I done it with in the last year or two? — Oh, come on, be reasonable.

What does that mean? — That means almost no one.

Who's almost no one? — No one you know. And that's enough of that. Don't push your luck.

So what about Linda? — Oh, you know about Linda, do you? That don't worry me, my darling. There's no secret about Linda. Everyone knows all there is to know about Linda. You won't catch me that way.

An open book, that's me. Put it another way — I got my story ready. Got it all worked out. That's from when I was a kid. You'd be walking down the street, not doing nothing, feeling the handle on the odd car, just in case, and up zooms the law — "What do you think you're up to, son?" "Nothing," say the other kids. "Right then, loitering with intent — you're nicked." They ask me. I tell them: "Going down the Council offices, my dad works there."

Going in that unlocked Dolomite there if you hadn't showed up, you big blue bastard. Don't tell them that, though. Straightforward's one thing, dad's another. Dad working for the Council — might be true — might be trouble. Sometimes off they zoom again. Sometimes not. Worth trying, though.

Had the Special Branch round the office the time we done the Warrington Report. "I believe you have a spot of form, sir," says this prat with a great smirk under his moustache. "I certainly have, colonel." I tell him. "Theft, false pretences, and occasioning actual bodily harm. If you want the details, they're all here in this press release we put out."

And I look straight into their eyes. Always do that. Trained myself when I was in the nick. See into their souls.

I'll tell you a funny thing: nobody wants his soul seeing into. Take this old bugger now, in the short haircut and the highly polished shoes, the one that's staring at me while we're waiting to cross the street. I'll tell you what he is — he's a senior staff officer out of the War Office in multi. Tell them a mile off. He knows who I am, too, and he don't like it, and he's letting me know it. All right, old lad, you look into my soul, I'll look into yours. Take your time, make a thorough inspection, ask me to open any bits

you can't see... Oh, and he's thought of something else he wants to look at instead. One or two little items to hide, have you, my old sweetheart, down there in the murky depths? Never mind — I won't tell on you.

Right, what else does anybody want to know? What qualifications I got for doing this job? Experience. What of? Everything. The Thames lighterage, for a start — that's where I began my career. You knew that. Everyone knows that. I'll tell you something you didn't know, then — I've worked in TV. I was an actor. This was when the lighterage went phut. I didn't just sit down on the wharf and give up — I went out and got myself discovered. You can still see me on the box late at night sometimes. Third villain from the left, second copper from the right. If someone comes on, you don't know who he is, no one introduced him, and he says "We gotta get outa here!" or "You OK, Sarge?" — take a good look, it might be me.

Worked in radio, for that matter. Yes! DJ. Spent three delightful weeks out on some abandoned fort in the Thames Estuary, green mould all over the walls, damp sleeping-bag, ended up with bronchitis and no voice, resigned on the first boat off. Moderation again, you see, always moderation.

I was a journalist once and all. — A journalist? — Certainly.

Features agency in Gravesend — But you can't spell, Terry! — I can spell all the words I needed to spell for the sort of stories we was doing down there in Gravesend. I can spell "sex", I can spell "vicars" and "knickers".

Can't spell? I can spell all right, when I'm the one doing the talking. Listen, old lad, I taught English! I did, you know. At one of the finest schools south of the river. Not half bad at the job, neither — I lasted nearly a whole term. And it wasn't the spelling that done for me — it was the income tax.

Try everything, that's me. Try it — then try something else. I was a Trot once. Of course I was, you tell me. One look at me and you know I been a Trot. Tell us something we don't know. All right, my friend, I will: I also been a fully paid-up member of the Liberal Party. The Liberal Party? You cry, turning pale. I must be joking! I'm not, my old son. I'm not. They was — I wasn't.

So, anyway, when they ring up — TV, radio, papers — I know what they want, I'm ready for them. "Put 'em on, then, Shireen." And I got a quote for them. The lobby system. "That's where Moses went wrong — he should have put the Ten Commandments out non-attributable." The Policy Statement on Access to Health Records? "Got more holes in it than the ozone."

Ask me a question, I'll give you an answer.

© Michael Frayn 1992

Now You Know, by Michael Frayn is published by Viking on September 3 (£14.99).



TOMORROW

OPENING LINES:
The Children of Men, by P D James
OPEN MINDS:
On the Women page, Jeanette Winterson tells Alice Thomson about her new novel and explains her mission to help discover passion

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What? Me? Absent minded? Forget it

At lunch with an old friend last week, I picked up his lighter to read the inscription upon it, saying, "I hope nobody ever gives me a lighter again, still less an engraved one. I must have lost 20 lighters in the last 20 years." The inscription was inscrutable to me, partly because I couldn't see it: I had left home without my glasses. It seemed to say something like "In Memory of Mr When 1988". The words meant nothing to my friend. He had found the lighter in his office about three months ago. Somebody had lost it.

It struck me that I had much to say about losing and loss and that I might write a column on the subject. I knew that if I didn't make a note I would lose the thought so I asked to borrow a pen or pencil, my own having vanished from my pockets. My friend pulled out a gold propelling pencil which was in some danger of going out of his possession and, temporarily, into mine. I wrote the words "losing it" in the margin of that day's newspaper. At the end of our lunch, when we left the restaurant, I left the paper under the table, losing it.

When I got home, I rushed to commit the thought to the eternal safe keeping of my computer's memory. Something went wrong in the process of saving the document I had created (I trust you

know this lingo). The words I had written were obliterated. When I tried to write them out again, I found that I had forgotten them. I am mappng my way back to them now, with the electronic equivalent of a white stick.

At this age, you don't expect to get better at anything; but I am forgetting so much worse at losing or forgetting things that it feels as if I am sub-consciously determined to shed all earthly belongings in preparation for a final account. When the moment comes for a final approach towards the needle's eye, I shall not be encumbered either by camel or saddlebags, having lost them somewhere en route.

I was, it must be admitted, always a loser. I was the eight-year-old who lost his father's beloved Waterman fountain-pen on the first morning when I was allowed to borrow it for school (and wailed so inconsolably during prayers that the headmaster took me into his office to whack my hand and give me something more immediate to cry about). I was the centre-forward for the first XI who turned up for matches with one boot, having lost the other. I was the undergraduate who arrived at the examination hall for Finals and had to ask what paper we were sitting, having lost the timetable. In my brief and less than glorious career as a television

MID LIFE
Neil Lyndon on the perils of a failing memory



presenter (don't say you don't remember?), I sometimes had to ask studio guests, live on air, to repeat their names and their titles because I had forgotten them or lost my notes ("My name is Barbara Castle. Some people remember me as having been a Secretary of State"). If you're born a Charlie, you cannot expect to become less of a Charlie with age.

Others around you may reach a practical accommodation of the fact. Everybody in my loving circle

of friends and family understands very well that it is a waste of money and sentiment to give me a present of anything more portable than a tree and anything more costly than a packet of cabbage seed. If an object is designed to be kept in a bag or pocket it will assuredly disappear from mine. There was a time when they gave me bags in which to keep the things I was always losing, such as books, papers, cameras, bank notes, umbrellas and lighters. Then they realised that, being unerringly capable of losing the bags, I could lose everything they contained in one go. For the sake of damage limitation, the bags had to go.

Though I would lose anything of material or sentimental value, I never — until recently — lost the most essential, vital things. I would comfort myself that, Charlie as I was, I had never equalled the feat of Sir Alec Douglas-Home who, as Foreign Secretary, was said to have mislaid a car with the state's red boxes in its boot. I never lost my keys, passport, watch, address book or child (the losing of wives or lovers, at which I have always been adept, cannot be counted a form of absent-mindedness). Then, about two months ago, I lost my dog. I do not mean to say that he died: anybody can lose a dog that way; it takes a real genius of absent-mindedness to mistay a dog.

I don't know how it happened. I must have put him on one side of the car, leaving the door open on the other side. He probably got fed up and stepped out to sniff the hedgerows. I got into the car, slammed the door and drove off without him. His absence did not impress itself upon my vacant noddle until I got home, found the telephone ringing and the voice of the friend I had been visiting, saying "Did you mean to leave your dog here? He's looking a bit hurt."

I can't tell whether or not this article is building up a coherent and comprehensible picture of a losing personality because I cannot see the words I am typing on the screen. The glasses which I supposed I had forgotten to put in my pocket five days ago have still not materialised and must be counted lost (I saw them in a dream last night, resting on a coffee table where I had left them; but I can't find that coffee table: I think I must have lost it). Now I am in real trouble. If I can't find my glasses, I shan't be able to dial the numbers on the fax to send this article. Then I shall lose my job. Then I shall lose my home. Then I shall have lost everything. I shall be ready to pass through the eye of the needle, but I shan't be able to find it. What shall I profit a man if he gain the keys to the kingdom of heaven and can't remember where he put them?

director, Tain Softley, comes to the fore in *Backbeat*, about the

Cinema: Geoff Brown on the sometimes glorious history and less certain future of music for films

Theme spirit scores a winner

He dotted on his dog Twilight ("Tw" for short), but often gave the impression of having humans. His temper could flare like an oil drum following a tossed match: beneath the lion's roar, though, some saw a pussycat: generous and sweet. He was Bernard Herrmann, Hollywood's most stimulating film composer, and the subject of *Music for the Movies*, a biographical portrait screening at the Edinburgh Film Festival on Sunday.

Joshua Walezyk's hour-long study, jam-packed with interviews, film clips and musical excitement, arrives at a propitious time. Watching the cascade of Herrmann clips from his debut score for Welles's *Citizen Kane* to his triumphant collaboration with Hitchcock, you are forced to wonder when you last saw sound and image meshed with such flair and distinction.

To Herrmann, each film brought a different challenge, and a different instrumentation. For the opening of *Citizen Kane*, growling winds, low-pitched percussion and a vibraphone escort us through the mysteries of Manada, Kane's vast estate. *Psycho* reveals in the ice-cold sound of strings: *Beneath the 12-Mile Reef*, a potboiler, shimmers with marvellous music for rime harps. Herrmann also knew when to shut up: as the crop-dusting plane pursues Cary Grant in *North by Northwest*, the silence heightens tension in a way no fortissimo could achieve.

Sixteen years after Herrmann's death, Hollywood film music enjoys a bigger public profile than ever before. It thunders through the showcase cinemas in digital stereo; it fills CD racks in the shops; and spills into popular Saturday night concerts. Yet the genre can hardly be said to be in the best artistic health. For a quick, blunt diagnosis compare the scores for two Robin Hood films: Erich Wolfgang Korngold's exhilarating music for Warner Bros's 1938 *Adventures of Robin Hood*, and Michael Kamen's recent work for Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves.

Korngold's score, opulently orchestrated by Hugo Friedhofer, bounces along with surging strings and heraldic trumpets, perfectly comple-

menting the succulent Technicolor and Errol Flynn's leaping limbs. Michael Kamen keeps Kevin Costner company with loud, busy, characterless bursts that might just as well suit an urban thriller, plus two pointless pop numbers.

Redundant songs are hardly a new vice. Even silent cinema suffered from the "theme song" craze: one heady 1929 melodrama, *The Woman Disputed*, spawned a ditty desperately entitled "Woman Disputed I Love You". But since the heydays of Korngold, Herrmann, Franz Waxman, Miklos Rozsa and others, new elements have driven down standards.

The old Hollywood masters brought to their scores a thorough technique, learned the hard way through music schools or practical experience in concert halls and theatre pits. The European refugees from Hitler, arriving just in time to enhance the new sound film, carried with them a taste for lyrical melody and the fat Straussian sound. American recruits such as Herrmann brought mixed experience in applied music and a decided taste for the experimental. Herrmann, hired as composer and arranger for CBS Radio in 1933, was a notable friend and champion of Charles Ives.

Hollywood's new kids on the block generally lack this breadth of training. They hail from rock music, or commercials, or television, and cannot rely on studio apprenticeship work to develop their skills. When the studio system collapsed, so did the music departments.

Happily, some composers thrive without conventional training. Danny Elfman, formerly of the rock group Oingo Boingo, has come to the fore with swirling, sardonic scores for Tim Burton's *Batman* films and *Edward Scissorhands*. Ten years ago, Stewart Copeland, from the group Police, devised a remarkable score for Coppola's *Rumble Fish*; its battery of ticking noises gave the impression of a woodpecker; array attacking the soundtrack. But in the average Hollywood film, mediocrity, plagiarism and musical personality are too weak to offset commercial pressures and formulas.

Film music has also suffered



Perfect marriage of sound and image: Orson Welles's *Citizen Kane*, scored by Bernard Herrmann

from the steady decline in the IQ of the films themselves. Give composers a half-way intelligent subject, a distinctive setting and interesting characters, and they can still rise to the occasion. The veteran Elmer Bernstein did so in *Rambling Rose*; John Williams scaled down the *Star Wars* bombast for his charming, Copland-esque score for *Stanley & Iris*. However, when you have nothing but crashed cars, silt throats and stomachs erupting with glop, there is little any composer can do to maintain creative dignity.

In too many cases, music has become a matter of cliché, not notes. The dynamic explodes: the characters scream "Let's get out of here!" and the soundtrack goes into hysterics. Subtlety is impossible; and a score with each character given a distinctive theme can hardly be written when films have no characters, just shooting targets.

Herrmann himself was not

immune from loudness. His penultimate score, for Brian De Palma's *Obsession*, raises the roof with its thunderous motifs for brass and organ and climactic setting of the *Dies Irae*. Nobody can nap, either, during his 1962 score for *Cape Fear*, revamped by Elmer Bernstein for Martin Scorsese's recent remake.

Yet no matter what the sound level, Herrmann always maintained his fiercely individual style. Knowing his gifts for suggesting deep unease and the romantic agony of love and death, the best directors cleared a path for the music to work its magic. "We'll just have the camera and you," Hitchcock told him, planning the key sequence in *Vertigo* where Kim Novak's disturbed heroine passes from one personality to another.

Walezyk's film, *Music for the Movies*, makes the point nicely by running Janet

Leigh's famous car ride in *Psycho* twice: once with Herrmann's jagged strings, once without. Viewed silently, Leigh might be too off to the supermarket, not en route with stolen money to a fateful motel shower.

In many ways, Herrmann's close relationships with directors such as Hitchcock were unique in Hollywood. The Old World has tended to treat composers kindly, and give them more say in a film's conception. Europe has also given classical composers a better time when they wrestle with film's peculiar demands. Prokofiev found a haven with Eisenstein; Georges Auric worked wonders with Cocteau; Walton created magnificent accompaniment for Olivier's Shakespeare. But barring a few fine scores by Copland or Virgil Thomson, Hollywood has largely discouraged "serious" composers, or misused them. The distinguished Austrian émigré

Ernst Toch wrote horror-comedy scores for Bob Hope. Mario Casati-Novati-Tedesco (read worse: Bela Lugosi in *The Return of the Vampire*).

European cinema remains film music's best hope. There are no cross blockbusters to help coarsen talent; individuality in style and instrumentation is encouraged. Nicola Piovani has joined Nino Rota and Ennio Morricone in Italy's roll of honour. And Zbigniew Preisner, Polish veteran of 50 scores for film and theatre, has shot to the top with his heart-piercing music for Kieslowski's *The Double Life of Véronique*. Like Herrmann, Preisner knows the emotional value of the gnomic phrase. Insistently repeated, he knows how to mingle with the images, and he knows the value of silence. On the Hollywood front, though, it is best to beware, and bring earplugs.

Edinburgh Film Festival information: 031-228 4051

PROMS: ALBERT HALL/RADIO 3

Bold or baroque or banal by turn

The Promenaders were unusually quiet on Saturday night. No antiphonal cries from arena to gallery: not a great deal of sauntering about in either area; no vigorous fanning of programmes in the heavy air. The final applause, though, was a great and deep outbreath of wonder and relief, and probably as loud as any until the last night.

Only at a Prom, perhaps, and almost certainly only with an orchestra of young musicians, could there be such a performance of Shostakovich's Symphony No 11. The European Community Youth Orchestra had Rostropovich at the helm to work with them to recreate the immense canvas of "The Year 1905". His deep knowledge of and commitment to the work, combined with their super-alertness, sharpness of reaction and sheer stamina, made it an extraordinary experience.

At one level, there was the violence of Shostakovich's musical shock tactics, here more extreme than in any other symphony. The huge, still soundscape of the opening Palace Square Adagio was sound masquerading as silence, movement as stasis. When, after the battering of the second movement's climactic tattoos, that silence returned without warning, the corporate heart of the audience seemed to miss a beat.

In this immense soundtrack of a score there were many moments of exceptional playing: the trombones dredging up their crescendos from the depths, the violas singing their veiled melody over pizzicato bass, the cor anglais threnody as the end nears. Above all, though, it was Rostropovich's intellectual grasp of the 90-minute whole which was to be marvelled at.

As Eric Rosberry pointed out in his programme note, it is this component of the score which continues to resonate in the mind long after the shock of its emotional rhetoric has subsided. Not to such an extent, though, as to erase the memory of Martin Argersich's remarkably robust and lucid account of Prokofiev's Third Piano Concerto which preceded it.

Antonio Teixeira's *Te Deum* lasts exactly as long as the Shostakovich. Unlike the Elvén Symphony, though, it

makes one aware of every minute of its one and a half hours, and nowhere more so than at a late night Prom. One mar, in the arena had to be woken from a loudly snoring sleep, the hall was busy with exits and entrances; someone at the bus stop complained of missing half the piece because he'd dropped off.

Much lauded in its recorded form by *The Sixteen* Choir and Orchestra under Harry Christophers, this work of the Portuguese high Baroque promises, in its provenance alone, a feast of ecclesiastical and musical camp surpassed only by the contemporary architectural extravagance of Sintra.

A minor opera composer, Teixeira spent half his life examining the ordinariness of Lisbon in their knowledge of plainsong, and that is about the measure of the *Te Deum*. It teases the ear and tests the voice and the patience with dizzying sequences, a surfeit of soaring coloratura, and almost as many cadenzas as there are audiences. Among the soloists, Lynda Russell, Catherine Wyn-Rogers and Michael George actually seemed to enjoy it.

Teixeira certainly knew how to juxtapose the most improbable and expressly arbitrary contrasts of orchestral and choral writing, and these found a properly satisfying foil in Harry Christophers' choice of an introductory chant from a Portuguese manual of 1786. All trace of Teixeira and his work disappeared at the time of the great Lisbon earthquake of 1755. It's a good story...

The earlier part of the evening featured a more conventional programme; and the Northern Sinfonia, under Heinrich Schiff, seemed to know it, and fear it. Their playing of Mozart's "Haffner" Symphony, and their accompanying of Christian Zacharias's flashy but superficial Beethoven Piano Concerto No 1, was spry, microscopic in detail, and brisk of tempo as if to be certain to make its mark. Schmitt's calculatedly ludicrous Concerto Grosso No 1 did so by contrivance alone, and Paul Barrin and Lesley Hatfield are to be congratulated for their painstaking tenacity in playing its game.

HILARY FINCH

DANCE: GLASGOW

Doomed lovers with lighthearted air

Here is yet another production of Prokofiev's ballet, *Romeo and Juliet*, about Shakespeare's most famous pair of lovers. But we pampered (perhaps even overindulged) metropolitan, who have lately had the pick of versions by four different choreographers for four different companies, need to remind ourselves that audiences elsewhere in Britain have less choice.

The Scottish Ballet first mounted John Cranko's *Romeo and Juliet* ten years ago, but it dates back much further — to 1958 — and was one of the earliest treatments of the subject by a British choreographer. Cranko made it under the inspiration of seeing Galina Ulanova with the Bolshoi Ballet shortly before, but curiously the most direct influences show not in the character of Juliet but in more incidental aspects, above all Lady Capulet's grief at Tybalt's death, tearing her dress and being carried off astride the corpse on its stretcher. Cranko pushed Lady Capulet into more prominence by making her, rather than Juliet's father, the dominant parent when they are trying to control their recalcitrant



Romeo (Ricardo Bustamante) and Juliet (Noriko Ohara)

daughter. He also made Paris a sympathetic character by letting him try to do his own wooing. However, Cranko seems to have thought the scenes with the family too long and repetitive; the cuts he made to the score speed the action along, but perhaps miss out on clarity of plot and character development.

The production now at the

Theatre Royal, Glasgow, is particularly good at suggesting the comic liveliness of the streetlife against which the tragedy is set — except that I cannot be the only person who has never been entirely happy with the grinning clowns who bring their carnival entertainment along. These episodes, too, provided the best dancing on Saturday, at the opening.

Elsewhere, the ballet could have taken a lot more dramatic weight than most of the performers provided. Noriko Ohara, one of the company's senior ballerinas, was Juliet, with a guest Romeo, Ricardo Bustamante from American Ballet Theatre. Physically, her tiny frame and his tall handsome appearance go well together, but neither of them brought very sharp focus to the roles, and he seemed altogether too bland for her intensity.

There seems a lack of a strong theatrical hand in the staging: someone to give Roddie Patrizio's nimble, likeable but lightweight Mercutio a sharper edge; to add more menace to Robert Hampton's dark, glowering Tybalt and more authority to Karl Burnett's pleasant Paris. Above all, the Capulet parents and the nurse still need bringing properly to life.

Linda Packer as a gypsy and Ruth Robinson as Rosaline show that the dancers have not lost their theatrical qualities with the recent development of a more dance-orientated repertoire. I hope their colleagues can work up something similar during the tour to come.

JOHN PERCIVAL

TELEVISION REVIEW

A place to view in lieu of the zoo?

Few species are as endangered as London Zoo. Like many people, I relish institutions which have become unfashionable and I am fond of the Zoo, though not half as much as my young son. But its imminent closure at the end of next month has obliged all those who agree with me to ask ourselves why we want to preserve a place which some think no better than a prison for animals. Last night's *Nature Special* (BBC 2) explained convincingly what had gone wrong and will have opened the eyes of many to the Zoo's real value.

On past form the Zoo's entertainment value will not be sufficient to save it. The association of newspapers with Fleet Street aroused the nation too, but the industry could not justify its central location and the name has outlived the reality. Having long overshadowed all others, London Zoo now has fewer visitors than its counterpart in Chester. Its site

in Regent's Park would make any developer's mouth water. As the programme suggested, however, London Zoo's governing council and its management have consistently underestimated the intelligence of the public. They ran a disastrous advertising campaign based on the sex lives of pandas; yet they have failed to publicise the Zoo's unique importance in conservation.

It was news to me, and I daresay to most viewers, that the Zoo employs around a hundred researchers all over the world to monitor endangered species and take active steps to save them. Many of the animals which might have been destroyed if the Zoo

closes are now so rare in the wild that their only hope of survival depends on breeding in captivity, enabling the species one day to return to its natural habitat.

Several of those interviewed, including a senior keeper and a fellow of the Zoological Society, were bitterly critical of the great and good personages who have always run the Zoo. A retired field marshal, however worthy, does not sound like the ideal figurehead for an institution in such straits, and the new chief executive seemed to have his work cut out keeping the factions apart.

If London Zoo closes, as now seems likely, the blame will lie with these officers

rather than the other ranks. The majority of fellows, council members and administrators seem to have been blind to the growth in awareness of conservation issues, the popularity of nature books and television programmes, travel and other cultural changes which might have been turned to the Zoo's advantage.

In a short programme there was no space to ask what would become of the Regent's Park site if the Zoo no longer occupied it. My own suggestion is to turn the area into London's biggest art exhibition centre, using the enclosures for open-air sculptures and the listed buildings as galleries. The wealthy Henry Moore Foundation might be interested. But a proportion of any profits should be assigned to the animal conservation work now undertaken by the Zoo. Let art not merely imitate nature, but subsidise it too.

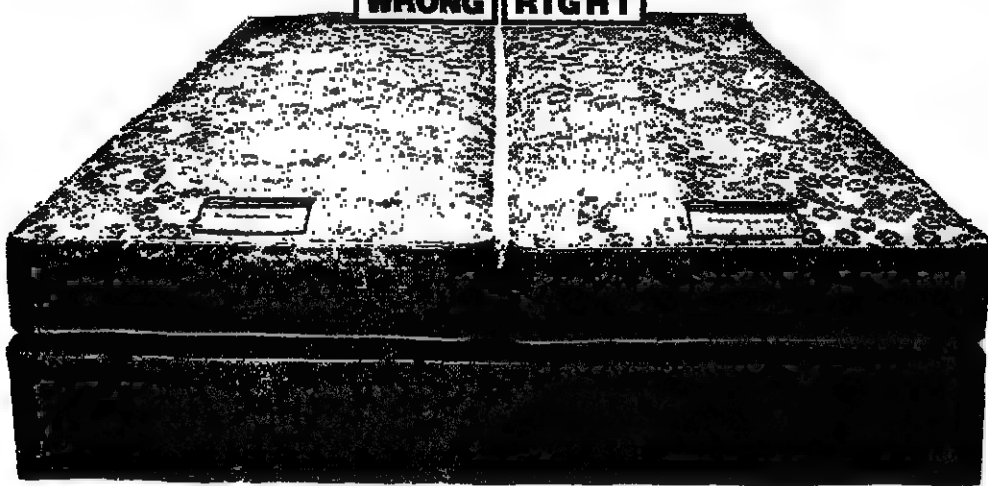
DANIEL JOHNSON

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director, Kean Softley, comes to the fore in *Backbeat*, about the

How the Mirror scooped the pool

The Duchess of York has revealed a little more than she might think. Publication of the notorious photographs showing her in a state of undress in the company of a man who is not her husband has brought into focus the crucial importance of tabloid newspaper picture desks.

Last Thursday, the first day the photographs were published, the *Daily Mirror* sold out its normal 3.5 million print run and took the step of printing 400,000 extra later that day. On the following day, *Mirror* sales were up by 300,000 while *The Sun*, which published the most revealing photograph of all, claimed its highest circulation in four years.

This was proof, if any were needed, that photographs sell newspapers. Yet the back room operators who organise the gathering of photographs are hardly known outside newspapers. They are sometimes even the butt of scorn within the business, viewed as failed photographers or inadequate executives who cannot make the grade on the supposedly more pressured news desks.

Wise tabloid editors, however, realise that picture desk staff can be of immense value, not so much

as spotters of good photographs, but as organisers and communicators with the far-flung photographic community. Good picture desk executives spend most of their time with a telephone clamped to their ears, just keeping in touch with photographers.

It is clear that the *Daily Mirror* picture desk played a key role in ensuring that the newspaper obtained its "exclusive" photographs from Daniel Angeli, the Paris-based Italian paparazzo who secretly photographed the duchess and her friend, John Bryan, at a St Tropez villa.

Taking photographs is one thing; selling them is quite another. A photographer needs contacts, not to mention marketing acumen, and Signor Angeli showed he had both. He managed to negotiate lucrative sales of his 50 or more colour photographs to leading European and American magazines and newspapers. In Britain, he chose the *Daily Mirror* due, in part to his good relationship with the picture desk.

The sales-boosting Duchess of York saga has highlighted the work of a normally unsung part of the press: the picture desk

As far as freelancers are concerned, a good relationship means that a desk which does a rapid telephone deal pays what it promises on time. Every freelancer has a story about a desk failing to keep its end of the bargain.

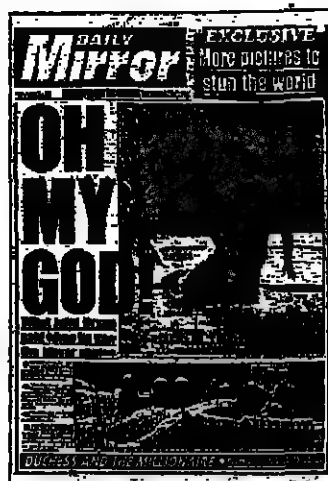
Once Signor Angeli had contacted the *Mirror*, an executive flew to Paris to see if what was on offer was as good as it sounded. He declared the photographs "dynamic", and the deal was sealed.

We have to keep this in perspective. It is not a purely tabloid phenomenon. A *Sunday Times* picture editor once flew off at a moment's notice to Cyprus in the expectation of buying exclusive photographs of the then-captive Terry Waite. As so often happens, that tip was false, but it illustrates just one aspect of the picture desk's

contribution to a newspaper. In fact, the desk staff — there is usually an editor, a deputy, a couple of assistants and, most importantly, a night picture editor — have several overlapping functions.

In recent years, with the introduction of colour transmission straight on to screens, they have had to learn to handle advanced technology. But one essential aspect of their work has never changed: the handling of people. They must organise their staff photographers to ensure that daily run-of-the-mill events are covered, always keeping in mind that they will need to respond to big news stories.

Not even the most farsighted picture editor could predict when or where news will next occur and



Worth a thousand words: the *Mirror* photographs

therefore he or she must keep in touch with an army of freelancers, from the local photographers in various British towns to a host of "stringers" around the world. Picture editors must also main-

tain relationships with the scores of British and foreign paparazzi who hunt showbusiness personalities and royalty, while courting the more respectable agencies or photographers who specialise in winning authorised access to film, television and pop stars.

These contacts must be massaged continually in the hope of winning that elusive exclusive, but the problem is that photographers cost money and photographers who spend months earning very little while trying to land the big one will always aim to sell to the highest bidder.

The only guaranteed way for a picture editor to get an exclusive at a reasonable price is to see the photographs before any rival and offer enough to persuade the freelance not to bother showing them to another editor.

Friendship alone will not suffice, but trust built up over months can make a difference. Picture desk staff must try to treat freelancers well in the lean periods.

Since the highest-paid members

of the journalistic community apart from very senior executives tend to be freelance photographers, it is unsurprising that desk staff find satisfying the demands of freelancers less than thrilling. One paparazzo with less than a year's experience has been known to boast: "I just paid cash for a new Porsche. I think I'll get a Mercedes next".

Deskbound employees must swallow their pride, knowing that any one of these ambitious and sometimes unscrupulous, young men (they are rarely women) could get the photograph at any moment. As one picture editor once told me: "To do this job properly you need loads of charm and the bargaining skills of a barrow boy".

Len Greener, the *Mirror* picture editor, fits that bill perfectly. Unfortunately for him, he was away on holiday when Signor Angeli called to offer his exclusive. He was furious at missing the chance to negotiate one of his newspaper's biggest scoops. The only consolation he has is knowing that it was his desk's track record that prompted the photographer to telephone in the first place.

ROY GREENSLADE

Television is changing, and its leaders are worried. As executives and producers prepare to debate their various headaches, David Cox sets the scene

Is the future of TV up in the air?

Each August bank holiday, executives and producers of the small screen gather at the Edinburgh Television Festival to agonise over their destiny. This weekend one subject will overshadow all others: the now-imminent transformation of the broadcasting world by deregulation and technological change.

British Sky Broadcasting's Premier League football coup, the ousting of Granada chairman David Plowright and the BBC's root-and-branch review of its function have been just the outward signs of an industry responding with drastic action to a changing vision of its future.

Over the past year it has become clear that viewers will soon be choosing from a profusion of channels. We may see this begin to happen this winter, if BSkyB's football gamble increases dish sales. However, satellite and cable are now looking like the intermediate technology of channel proliferation. Digital transmission could make scores of channels available before the end of the decade.

Coming hand in hand with channel proliferation is sub-

scription funding of individual services, which BSkyB has already embraced. Once viewers can buy the programmes they really want, the existing mixed-programming terrestrial channels cannot hope to survive in their current form. Advertiser-supported general channels will provide only bargain-basement viewing, while public service channels will be priced out of the market for popular programming.

Against this background, BSkyB's huge investment in football coverage — £304 million over five years, including a contribution from the BBC — looks less like a reckless gamble than an almost essential step. If it encourages enough people to buy dishes, and they pay large enough subscriptions to watch the matches, BSkyB could clean up. The income could then be

used to buy rights to other television properties, perhaps including some of the star attractions of the terrestrial channels. On the other hand, the burden of the Premier League contract could drive BSkyB to the wall. Yet this risk has to be taken, for unless BSkyB scoops the pool, it could itself be sidelined by the digital revolution.

To block the BSkyB breakthrough, the ITV franchise-holders may even be prepared to suspend their customary funding and allow their new network centre the freedom it will need to build a ruthlessly competitive schedule.

However, more may be required. ITV's barons must decide soon whether or not to start satellite services of their own. They know, though, that such a sprawling operation could only protect their short-

term income at the expense of long-term prospects. It would divert funds from investment in programmes — and, once channel proliferation is complete, it is in programme-making, not broadcasting, that profits will lie.

The trick for commercial broadcasters such as BSkyB, ITV franchisees and the hapless Channel 5 will be to use the fast disappearing advantages of broadcasting status to build up a programme factory and library. To do this, however, they must also defend their dwindling stream of broadcasting income.

Commercial broadcasters are not alone in facing problems. The BBC sees its traditional strategy for corporate survival falling apart just as its charter comes up for review. The central element of that strategy has always been the

provision of popular programming to build public support for the licence fee, even though that has meant offering many programmes similar to those on the commercial channels. It will not wash much longer.

Once we all have access to scores of channels, the BBC's share of our viewing is bound to fall, as it already has in satellite homes. Meanwhile, the price of popular writing, acting and directing talent will rise, as competition grows more intense. If the BBC threw its licence fee income into such a marketplace, it would be able to buy less and less, so its audience share would fall even further. At the same time, other broadcasters would be providing similar fare without recourse to an unpopular compulsory "poll tax". In such circumstances it is hard to see the licence fee surviving.

Therefore it is not surprising that Marmaduke Hussey, the chairman of the BBC and John Birt, the director-general, designate, appear to be moving towards the complete rejection of the time-honoured populist creed. In its place they seem to be fabricating a rival doctrine of "distinctiveness". This would imply that the BBC would offer no services which commercial broadcasting could provide. Instead, the corporation would concentrate on areas which could never be profitable, such as current affairs, documentaries, arts, education, the single play and innovation in all fields.

Such an approach would mean that the BBC's audience would fall even further. Yet it would still provide a more convincing rationale for the licence fee than populism: the licence-payers would know that their contributions were ensuring the survival of those kinds of programme which are judged valuable by society, but whose survival is threatened by intensifying commercial pressure in the rest of the broadcasting system.

This impending change of direction, perhaps explains why the BBC is proving so ready to co-operate with BSkyB, which would become a complementary operator to which predominance in entertainment could be conceded in return for support in, say, news. But it is the BBC's popular programming which has been its greatest glory, not its supposedly worthy activities. *Hancock's Half Hour* and *Pawley Towers* have been among the corporation's triumphs, while its current affairs programmes, for example, have been outshone by ITVs.

Watching this struggle will



Bringing in the reign: Premier League footballers advertise BSkyB's saturation coverage

be Britain's other public service broadcaster. From January 1, Channel 4's umbilical cord to ITV will be cut, and it will have to live more or less on what it can earn from its own advertising sales. The Channel 4 management line is that this will not affect the channel's commitment to catering for minorities and fostering innovation. Commendable though this may be, it will prove less comfortable if the BBC is to mount a much more serious onslaught on this kind of territory.

The keynote address at Ed-

inburgh will come from Michael Grade, the Channel 4 chief executive. He is expected to concentrate, not on his own channel but on the BBC, to condemn the heresy of "distinctiveness" and urge the corporation to stick to the role of national entertainer.

What does all this mean for the viewer? The news is nearly all good. Tougher competition combined with new and perhaps extremely large subscription revenues will mean more and better entertainment. Meanwhile, in non-popular programming, greater com-

mitment and enhanced competition are likely to be at least as productive.

Until now both the BBC and Channel 4 have been able to get away with supposedly worthy programming which has actually been rather bad. Savage creative competition between these two institutions may not only raise standards but also inhibit the slide away from high purpose towards the soggy mainstream to which both of them are prone.

David Cox is the executive producer of ITVs *Walden* and BBC's *Nation*

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Riddles of the human brain

TIMES/DILLONS LECTURE: MATTER OF THE MIND

How and when was the human brain formed? What is the difference between mind and soul? Technical advances in biology are bringing scientists closer to the answers to ancient questions. Now, to coincide with the publication of *Bright Air, Brilliant Fire: On the Matter of the Mind* by Gerald Edelman, *The Times* in conjunction with Dillons and Allen Lane The Penguin Press is sponsoring a lecture on this subject.

Dr Edelman, a Nobel laureate and the director of the Neurosciences Institute, New York, and Oliver Sacks, Professor of Neurology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, both argue that biology is the key to understanding the brain.

Introduced by Colin Blakemore, Professor of Physiology at Oxford University, Dr Edelman will speak on biology and the brain, followed by Dr Sacks on neurology and the soul.

The lecture will take place on September 7 at 7.15pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. *Times* readers can obtain tickets by filling in the coupon (right) or contacting Dillons by telephone, fax or in person.

● Bright Air, Brilliant Fire: On the Matter of the Mind is published on September 3 by Allen Lane The Penguin Press

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Images of suffering children are powerful, but Patricia Holland believes they allow us to ignore wider conflicts



Young casualty of war: photographs such as this, taken at a hospital in Sarajevo, helped arouse Western outrage over the bloodshed in the former Yugoslavia

Taking a picture of pain

There is nothing like a picture of a suffering child to give an emotive kick to a news story. Atrocities need victims and the more helpless the victim the more effective the story. A pathetic baby on the news-stand will draw the eye of the passing punter, whether it is the kidnapped Farrah Quli or the traumatised children of Bosnia.

In the past weeks we have been shown the almost unbearable distress on the faces of the children of Sarajevo. There was the crying toddler next to the window cribbed by a sniper's bullet. There were the distraught parents parting from their children, perhaps for ever. There was the little girl whose teddy bear knapsack clasped its arms around her neck — a poignant reminder of more light-hearted times. As with so many other wars, the pictures of children, as much as of the haggard men in the prison camps, are what have helped arouse European outrage at the war in what used to be Yugoslavia.

And yet, there is something attractive — almost enjoyable — in the pathos of these images. A bit like our bitter-sweet reaction to popular postcards of weeping babies, it is a forbidden pleasure that almost becomes a pornography of suffering. We may experience this emotion at second-hand, safe in our homes, away from the terror and pain. They offer an aesthetic of sentiment like that enjoyed by Victorian bonnie-boys of beggar girls and the destitute. However powerful the photographs, and however desperate the reality they record, they are part of a familiar repertoire of images called on by the press, advertisers, magazines and

television in their hungry search for impact.

But also in the past few weeks, there has been another set of photographs of desperate children which have made the front pages less often. The pictures from Somalia show the result of an even greater breakdown of social order. Beside them the pathetic children of Bosnia seem healthy and well cared for.

The difference between the two sets of images reminds us that photographs are used within sets of conventions that are as rigid as they are unspoken. Each style has its own history. The tradition of North American and European "poverty" pictures is different from that of Third World "disaster" pictures. Our responses, too, are conditioned and trained — which is why we are shown Bosnian refugees rather than Somali deaths.

From Biafra in the 1960s to Somalia in the 1990s, the central icon of Third World disaster has been a picture of a starving child — ribs showing, skin wrinkled, eyes staring with uncomprehending horror; pictures so extreme they alienate rather than arouse compassion. A teddy bear will not solve their problems.

In the early 1980s, the aid agencies made the image of a starving child the centre of their campaigns. Dying babies were posted on city-centre hoardings next to the ads for food, cars and fizzy drinks. The aim was to shock British society out of its complacency. But there was a backlash. Critics objected to the use of a sick child. White babies would never have been shown in such a degrading way, it was said. Often presented

against a blank background, their social background was erased from visibility. The nameless child could be from any part of the disadvantaged world. The implication was that the whole of the Third World was a place of chaos and disaster, where communities were unable to care for their own children. This was both exploiting the children and demeaning the society from which they came. Agencies such as Save the Children

In today's climate, the only way to demonstrate this is news is for the pictures to become more extreme

and Oxfam took the criticisms to heart. Earlier this year, Save the Children issued guidelines for advertising agencies and corporate sponsors as well as writers and photographers. They suggested that pictures should be put into context, that self-help operations should be shown and that children should not be used to symbolise "child-like" communities. Save the Children's advertisements for aid to Somalia show a black woman — possibly an aid worker — giving food to a baby whose smooth skin and look of distress are closer to the pictures we

have come to expect from the traditional pictures of starvation.

But do pictures of self-help and survival make people put their hands in their pockets? And does not there come a time when the situation has gone too far for such niceties? If the aid agencies do not tell us how desperate things are, who else will?

The agencies have played an important role in drawing the attention of the media to Africa at times when the really exciting stories are elsewhere — in the Gulf in 1991, today in the former Yugoslavia. The current interest in Somalia is to a large extent the result of nine months of hard work by Save the Children. But in today's climate, the only way to demonstrate that this is news is for the pictures to become more extreme. It was an ABC report showing a Somali girl left alone beside her dead brother that reportedly stirred the United States into increasing aid. Paul Harrison, the film-maker, has written: "It is an unfortunate truism of famine that by the time the pictures are horrible enough to move people, it's almost too late." The weekend when baby Farrah, now safely restored to her parents, beamed on all the front pages, what the Irish foreign minister described as "the world's worst horror story" was tucked away inside or was absent altogether.

The theme of child rescue has its own long history, from the boatloads of hapless youngsters shipped to Canada by Dr Barnardo at the turn of the century to the ill-fated airlift from Vietnam in 1975. Many newspapers seem prepared to report a disaster only if they can claim that they

themselves are putting things to rights. "Mirror to the rescue" was the *Daily Mirror* headline on the 1984 famine. "The Mail brings comfort to cyclone children" was the *Daily Mail* headline on the 1991 Bangladeshi cyclone.

The paths of childhood protect our compassion. Our pity is poured on the children, the innocent victims, who may be rescued by being removed from the community of which they are a part. They are then photographed with a reassuring symbol of safety and Western civilisation — a cup of tea, a dog, a teddy bear. Compassion for childhood relieves us of the necessity of making political judgments, for children are seen as being outside politics. We are reminded of the UNESCO image of childhood — a cheerful multiculturalism, where different colours and costumes are nothing but variations on a common humanity.

And yet the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, finally adopted after 30 years of debate and dispute, asserts that children have the right to be brought up within their own culture. And that presumably includes initiation into the deep-seated convictions and bitter rivalries of adult society.

We are left with pictures which arouse unfocused emotions that are pleasurable because they lead nowhere. It is easier to pity the children because they allow us to overlook the ambivalences and muddles of social conflict in which one side is never entirely in the right.

Patricia Holland's book *What is a Child?* is published by Virago on Thursday.

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Davina esta de vacaciones



DAVINA LLOYD

"Davina Lloyd is on holiday." For some that is enough. They can just file those words — with the appropriate amendments — and bunk off to the Bahamas. Since parenting has no statutory vacations, I don't seem to have been offered the option. So here I am halfway up an Andalusian mountain in a small Spanish village I have been visiting annually for the past dozen years. Like all parents in foreign parts, I am trying to recreate family life far from home, without the regular support systems, chicken nuggets and leisure centre special summer offers.

I reflect, as I do each year, that they do it differently abroad — the business of bringing up children. Our neighbours here have known us since before we had children. They used to express deep regret that a nice couple like us were not blessed with issue. They pursued us, asking questions that might elsewhere have seemed impertinent. When I eventually returned *embarazada* (literally, embarrassed with child), they put it down to the candles they'd lit in the local church.

They were kind enough to compliment us on our new babies, but I could tell that my small, pale offerings elicited ill-disguised pity. My babies earned only a "Qué precioso" or "Qué guapo!", not the "Qué bonito" reserved for the spherical infants that find favour locally.

I have learnt much about child care here, beyond the reaches of Spock and Stoppard. Apart from this tendency to overfeed, there is a natural wisdom here about feeding children. As a new mother, in the phase of sterilising and boiling everything before a child touched it, I used to be horrified when one of mine pointed at a large, fly-blown dried ham hanging overhead in a shop, to find that a slice had been cut off and was passed hand-to-hand by the other customers to my child. Now, I know it's fine.

"I'm going to Frascia's for my crisps," they say, "she always gives you serrano while you're waiting."

The British are genuinely impressed, if not alarmed, at the sight of Spanish families eating out. It's not that they do it, or how often, but how? Babes in arms, rampaging toddlers, indifferent teenagers, and black-clad grannies all set out together, colonise several tables and share food together each week.

It's wonderful and it can be done. Partly, it's because they're all used to it. Even the tiny ones are broken in to social eating before they believe it to be an alien ritual of manners. And partly, I think, because of the portions. You can order anything in any order as *tapas* (tasters) or *raciones* (middle sized servings) or *platos* (full plates). Like the three bears' allocations, these Daddy-bear, Mummy-bear and Baby-bear sized portions are "just right" for someone. They avoid the tyranny of the clean-plate syndrome, which in Britain torments and possibly creates many a fussy eater. No better way to side-step

faddiness in feeding than to give every child the chance to sample everything. The children love the fact that much of it is manual. How can I insist on appropriate cutlery use when the bank manager we know at the next table is scooping up squid sauce with bread?

Another aspect of family life that no longer terrifies me is bedtime. Everyone here is up till all hours. It is quite impossible to maintain domestic routine — eight-year-olds in bed by eight — if your own car, see a three-year-old setting out for an evening's entertainment when she's supposed to be in her pyjamas.

August used to be the cruellest month for this. In the middle of the month is *fiesta* — a four-day festival in which the entire village participates. What about bed-time, I used to think. How can my babies sleep while the floor is vibrating with rhythm? It is a great lesson in child care to discover that children will sleep whenever and wherever they are tired, even in the middle of the municipal firework display.

There are some parental practices with which I cannot come to terms. Girl babies seem to have their ears pierced by the midwife: the cheeks of comely infants are pinched until their eyes water; and almost nothing is denied to the very young in the way of sweets. One sweet-day a week is considered eccentric. I can only hold out by asking that my children observe the black stumps of some village children what they now term "Spanish teeth".

But after more than a decade as a guest here, I think it is the most child-centred, family-friendly place in the world to come for a holiday. I struggle along with my adult evening-class vocabulary, my children have no problem communicating. My daughter speaks felt tip and colouring book and my son speaks Lego — both internationally recognised languages. The teenage boys next door have cooed over the children as babies. An elderly, toothless chap across the road obligingly listens to my daughter singing nursery rhymes. Maria who has a shop in her front room gives them credit for ices.

Everybody retains an unexceptional concern for everybody else's children. Men we hardly know give them a *duro* for smiling, strangers stop them befriending sickly dogs or wandering in front of the bread van. Everybody looks after the children. So, though I'm still hard at it, I can honestly say: *Davina está de vacaciones*.

Adoption and adaption — a father's dilemma

How a family can be put under stress when it takes in a child

Mia Farrow has four natural children and eight by adoption. Even without the latest disturbing twist — her long-time lover Woody Allen having an affair with Soon-Yi, said to be 21, one of three girls she and André Previn adopted when they were married — the size and composition of her family strikes most people as unusual, to put it mildly.

While following her own earth-mother inclinations appears to have been surprisingly successful for Ms Farrow, giving Woody Allen a co-starring role as step-father for such an extended family has proved to be a spectacular piece of mis-casting. But can men ever adapt to adoption? Dr June Thoburn, a senior lecturer in social work at the University of East Anglia, who has been involved in the Adoption Law Review to be published next month, says: "I don't think it is a gender issue. If men spend a lot of time with a child they will bond more quickly and that applies as much to a natural child as to an adopted one. It becomes more difficult with an older child because he or she will be off to school, so the bonding process takes longer. Also older children may have some not very nice experiences, so lack basic trust."

"Adoptive families face what I call a double jeopardy," Dr Thoburn says. "They may feel less than perfect after seeing countless infertility specialists, have had to have sex to order and grieve every time the wife has her period. The child, too, may feel, having been rejected once, less than perfect. A baby, even as young as a few weeks, can suffer a sense of rejection, so the adoptive family has to be very strong, very stable. On the other hand, it is a very stimulating and challenging thing to do."

Mr Allen and Ms Farrow have a natural son, Sachel, four, as well as two adopted children, Moses, 14, and Dylan, seven, so Mr Allen is not in the supposedly agonising position of having to "prove" himself as a man.

Peter Yarwood, a Leeds businessman, and his French wife Suzanne, acknowledge that Mr Yarwood probably finds it easier to cope with being an adoptive father because they had a daughter first. "My feeling is one would always wonder what one's child would turn out like, now I know," he says. Their daughter is now aged 32 and they

also have three adopted children. The first, an Anglo-Pakistani adopted when he was nine months old, is now 26. Then they adopted a Chinese baby and, finally, a Vietnamese baby, now 20.

"If you have a problem with your relationship, adoption can make it worse but adoption itself is not a problem," Mr Yarwood says. "You forget they are adopted most of the time."

On average, there are 7,000-9,000 adoptions in England and Wales every year, only 1,000 of them babies. The majority of the children are aged between one and 12, with, according to a spokesman at the health department, a "handful" coming from abroad.

Ms Farrow is said to be devastated by the breakdown in her family. "I can think of no crueller way to lose a child or a lover," a letter purporting to be written by Ms Farrow revealed. But Philip Stogdon, a coordinator for the Parent to Parent Information on Adoption Services, "Men find it difficult to talk in depth about something as sensitive as not being able to have a baby."

affair with Mr Allen and her rejection of Ms Farrow, who reportedly "scooped up" the Korean girl from the streets when she was seven.

"A part-time father can become a romantic fantasy figure to children," Mr Stogdon says. "He can be a virtual stranger and moral inhibitors are not been built up."

"Such a fluid situation as the Woody Allen/Mia Farrow arrangement would be one we as an agency would worry about. It can be very confusing for adopted children who may already have had difficult experiences about attachment and trust. They will ask themselves 'Who do I belong to? Who is responsible for me?' The mothers have often had additional problems to face because expectations of a good mother are often greater than of a good father. And children who have had bad experiences will project a lot of bad feeling onto the adoptive mother."

The average man still finds it difficult to discuss his feelings about adoption, according to Trisha Shingleton, who, with her husband Brian, is a coordinator for the Parent to Parent Information on Adoption Services. "Men find it difficult to talk in depth about something as sensitive as not being able to have a baby,"



Absentee father: Woody Allen preferred to live away from Mia Farrow and his children

says Mrs Shingleton, who has a 15-year-old son she adopted nine years ago and a boy of seven she and her husband are hoping to adopt. "Yet when they announce their wife is pregnant they go out and get drunk and everyone congratulates them as if they have climbed Everest instead of doing something normal that a 14-year-old boy could do. It's as if they are saying 'I have achieved it, I am a man now.'"

It is not just men who assume that virility, self worth and an ability to conceive are indivisible. When Mrs Shingleton, who has known since

she was 17 she could not have children, was first interviewed about adoption the female social worker said to her husband: "Why aren't you angry?" His reply that perhaps he could not have children either, for all he knew, apparently surprised her, as did their desire for children rather than babies, which was simply a pragmatic decision. They looked at the number over school age who wanted permanent families compared with babies and went to the option with the greatest chance of success. Recently, adoption agencies

have learnt to be more practical, too. Once they used to hunt for what they called the "ideal" family, now they look for something more realistic, but they still try to provide children with a stable environment. The arrangement of Ms Farrow and Mr Allen, with separate homes on opposite sides of Central Park, may have been a practical solution for them but it is hardly the very committed parents would choose to live. And for adoptive parents, commitment is the quality they need most.

HEATHER KIRBY

AND BRIEFLY Put the boot in

THE walkwear specialist George Fisher, of Keswick, offers one of the most prudent ways to invest in walking boots for children. The company, which also hires boots out, offers a "junior boot exchange" for all children's boots, up to a size three, bought there. A discount is given on a new pair, and the outgrown boots go into the hire pool. Contact George Fisher, 2 Borrowdale Road, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 5DA (07687 72178).

Seeing the light
FOR addicts of the Nintendo Game Boy hand-held video games system who play after "lights out", there is now a game light, licensed by Nintendo, from Nuby. It costs £3.99 but needs four batteries.

Family triangle
AMONG the many courses to be offered at the Healing Arts exhibition, from September 24 to 27 at the Royal Horticultural Halls in Greycoat Street, London, will be one aimed at the family. Bonding and the Magic Triangle (£10) will explore the eternal triangle of mother, father and child. Contact New Life Promotions, Arncliffe House, 170 Campden Hill Road, London W8 7AS (071-938 3788).

VICTORIA MCKEE

MANAGEMENT

Facts or propaganda?

The government has opened the door to corporate sponsorship in the public sector. Nicky Willmore reports on the consequences

Many parents will have come to terms with seeing their children's school course work branded with a corporate logo; most will have welcomed the new emphasis put on developing close links between employers and schools. But predictions that corporate sponsorship, a business worth £325 million a year, is about to make greater inroads into the public sector are giving cause for concern.

The scope for future growth is not just in branding museum exhibitions and waste paper bins. Despite the obvious ethical problems, the market research company Mintel tips education and health as two of the main sectors for expansion.

Government reforms are already blowing the doors to sponsorship wide open. The introduction of local management of schools and grant maintained status has introduced a business vocabulary to the staff room. New funding rules based on pupil numbers together with greater parental choice have compelled teachers to wake up to the need to market themselves.

Essex County Council has been quick to seize the initiative. Drawing on a long relationship with Ford UK it asked the company's marketing experts for advice on how schools should best respond to these challenges. The result is a 26-page glossy brochure, *Marketing your School to Pupils, Parents and Industry*, sponsored by Ford. Six hundred schools have also attended Ford seminars which looked at how to use links with industry to attract pupils and resources.

In the NHS, where the sponsorship market is still a very green one, new initiatives such as trust status and the contracting system again make it ripe for expansion.

Providing that companies are not relied on to supply funding for core services, does it matter if they capitalise on schools' and hospitals' inexhaustible



Sweet-talking watchdog: John Ward looks closely at sponsorship

call on resources? The health department cites Bupa schemes — where staff training or equipment are given to NHS hospitals — as welcome examples of sponsorship. Mothercare's £100,000 annual sponsorship of a clinical genetics unit at Great Ormond Street Hospital would also probably find few detractors.

It is likewise difficult to object to a bank producing supplementary course material for use in business studies classes on corporate finance. But as Alan Parker, education officer at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, says: "It's one thing raising children's awareness of the world of work, but it is another carrying out a form of public relations with the

nation's schoolchildren and providing them with material which is nominally educational but which contains hidden messages."

Indeed, the health department is sufficiently wary of the risks associated with corporate sponsorship to add its own caveat — these schemes are good "providing they are ethically sound and actually benefit the NHS". The NHS will be guarantor of that, it argues.

The dangers are already apparent. Great Ormond Street is conducting a research project funded by a chemical company into the use of a specific drug in treating childhood asthma. In fact, as Tony Baxter, the director of fundraising, makes clear, Glaxo is

sponsoring research into a generic rather than brand product and the research programme is under the direction of the hospital itself.

To date the biggest controversies in both the health and education sectors have been reserved for the sponsorship of educational materials. Here the National Consumer Council is so concerned about the poor quality of some sponsorship materials and schools' growing dependency on them that it has drawn up its own guidelines. Its recommendations include ensuring that sponsored material is clearly designated as such.

Its recommendations appear obvious — sponsored material should be clearly designated as such; no implied or explicit sales message should be included; there should be no attempt to state, imply or demonstrate that one product is better than another. The NCC also recommends that no samples are left in schools without the head teacher's consent and that people actively involved in education should be used to help to compile material.

But the protection afforded by the guidelines is inadequate. "They really need to be replaced by some kind of statutory system," says John Ward, the council's development director.

He says that the NCC continues to be at odds with some companies and with trade associations such as the British Sugar Bureau, set up by the industry to promote sugar. Mr Ward said that some of their schools material still runs counter to the guidelines.

He describes the food industry's involvement in health education as "one of the most treacherous sponsorship areas". As a result, the consumer watchdog is looking with interest at a proposal from the Coronary Protection Group for an accreditation system for health and food related materials.

But given the present absence of quality controls, a recent Mintel survey provides some comfort. The public, it appears, is under no illusion about why companies engage in sponsorship — most respondents described company motivation as marketing driven rather than philanthropic.

Our tolerance of sponsorship is apparently remarkably high. Mintel's survey suggests that consumers' eagerness to see more money pumped into hospitals and schools overrides all else. Hence the surprising finding that more people would appreciate sponsorship of the NHS and of primary and secondary education than would accept sponsorship of public transport.

Open government calls for more careful presentation

Behind the smoke screen

Open government is universally acknowledged to be a good thing, one of the totems of our age. At the last election all the political parties endorsed "openness" — although those at least risk of securing power were the most enthusiastic.

Those who have had experience in government know that in an increasingly sensationalist society, the achievement of an openness which cultivates informed debate shows that government is a complex business.

The reconciling of opposing or contradictory claims, the rationing of scarce resources and the easing through of change are far more complex affairs than making an anti-bureaucratic manifesto commitment.

But serious "openness" has to be persevered with. It has been used to good effect, for example, by the environment department in engineering the transition from the rubble of the "poll tax" to its more sensible replacement, the "council tax". Government has not forfeited the right to make basic decisions and it will ultimately be answerable for them, but consultation at least on the details has been timely and responsive. The "old" servants, driven by ministers, could click their fingers and expect the local authority finance system to change overnight, while expecting 100 per cent efficiency seems to have gone.

No doubt this is an openness forced by circumstances, and is unnatural to an extent. What is even less

natural, and inconsistent with the better traditions of the public sector, is trivialisation through the sort of tele-visual style of supposed openness which is claimed by its advocates to expose the inner workings of "authority" — but in reality can reduce serious issues to entertainment.

I hesitate to choose an already bashed target, but I have to say that the best recent illustration was the launch of the Department of National Heritage.

Others have already com-

mented on that department's absurd mish-mash of functions. Certainly several of the recent changes in the machinery of government seem to have been designed to placate ministerial egos rather than to advance public business. What was equally alarming was the Orwellian early-morning television appearance of the new permanent secretary, Hayden Phillips, shirt-sleeved and ready for the salesman's pitch, to persuade us of the huge and important tasks of his new ministry.

An embarrassing "top management" meeting was filmed and a young import from the Home Office commented on how exciting the work was compared to the grind of the criminal justice and prison systems, human rights and immigration — all those dull and fusty responsibilities of government.

What is this "Great Work"? Curiously, and no doubt coincidentally, Mr Phillips's appearance preceded a host of newspaper reports detailing schemes to build opera houses in Docklands and on the South Bank, and bids to extend the Tate Gallery, the British Museum, etcetera. Someone has apparently noticed a millennium coming up. The floodgates of public subsidies are to be opened.

Actually I doubt it. Given the state of central government's finances, it seems inevitable that most of these schemes will end in tears. Like it or not, John Major is not President Mitterrand hurrying to inscribe London with Grands Projets.

A debate on British "cultural policy", even a debate on whether a department of state should exist to promote such a thing, would be very worthwhile. Mr Phillips is an immensely talented public servant and well equipped to initiate it. But that debate can only be trivialised by their packaging in mere "hy-on-the-wall" photo-opportunities. This is a distraction, a presentation of style without substance, and for the sake of the serious health of public sector it should be stopped.

● The author is director, The Institute of Revenue, Rates and Evaluation



Colin Farrington

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Please quote reference: 17/92

Closing date

: 14th September 1992

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PROCEDURE

Telephone, or write to the AUT president for further details about the post. Applications in writing, enclosing full cv, should give three references. It is expected that a 'preferred candidate' will be selected from the applications but, under trade union legislation, appointment may be subject to a ballot of the AUT membership. The term of office of the person elected to the post will begin as soon as possible after election has been re-elected at that time. Thereafter, the post is subject to election by a ballot of the membership every five years.

DETAILS

The Aut offices are at Notting Hill Gate, London. Total remuneration (under review) £36,932 to £47,392. There is an excellent contributory pension scheme.

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United House
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BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax (24922) 6.30 Breakfast News (92377403)
9.05 Thundercats: Animation (r) (6802106)
9.25 Hartbeat: Tony Hart and Gabrielle Bradshaw look at improving picture-making techniques (r). (Ceefax) (s) (4029816)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (6493969) 10.05 Playdays (r) (s) (627854) 10.25 Double Dare: Today's contestants are Jonathan Dow and Tom Butcher of *The Bill* (r) (s) (3000651) 10.45 T'n'T: Andi Peters travels around Europe (s) (6924816)
11.00 News, regional news and weather (1780212) 11.05 The Flying Doctors: Australian drama series (r). (Ceefax) (s) (8375090)
11.50 National Trust Gardens: Peter Seabrook visits Peacockes, a former merchant's house in Coggeshall, Essex (r) (6734767)
12.00 News, regional news and weather (7787922) 12.05 Summer Scene: Daily magazine with Carol Keating and Linda Mitchell (5042932) 12.25 Regional News and weather (51353038)
1.00 One O'Clock News: (Ceefax) Weather (74900)
1.30 Neighbours: (Ceefax) (s) (43970564)
1.50 Secrets of the Heart: In the last of the series, Steve Morton explores Australia's mysterious heart (61810835)
2.20 Film: *The Man Between* (1953, b/w). Director: Carol Reed's unsuccessful attempt to repeat his stylish thriller, *The Third Man*, in a Berlin setting. James Mason stars as a black marketeer who is undone by love; with Hildegarde Neff and Claire Bloom (20496)
4.00 Cartoon (3324858)
4.10 Children's BBC Pinnocchio (r) (1558922) 4.35 The Really Wild Roadshow: Today's programme is from Twycross Zoo (r). (Ceefax) (s) (6109564) 5.00 Newsround (5009274) 5.10 Byker Grove: Children's drama series set in Newcastle (r). (Ceefax) (s) (9146106)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (588545). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Ceefax) Weather (748)
6.30 Regional news magazines (800). Northern Ireland: Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s)
7.00 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em: Comedy starring Michael Crawford as the bumbling Frank Spencer. With Michele Dotrice (r) (6293)
7.30 EastEnders: (Ceefax) (s) (212)
8.00 Citizen Smith: Abide with Me. John Sullivan's 1970s comedy starring Robert Lindsay as the Tooting Che Guevara. Ken and Willie are evicted from their squat (r). (Ceefax) (5941)
8.30 Walk on the Wildside: Selfish Nature. Concluding his natural history series, Simon King highlights animals which use devious behaviour to survive. (Ceefax) (s) (1748)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Burk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (6274)



Politics and violence: John Heard with Mel Harris (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Cross of Fire: Mini series based on the true story of the murder trial of D.C. Stephenson, the leader of the Ku Klux Klan in 1920s Indiana. Starring John Heard and Mel Harris. Continues tomorrow at 9.30pm. (Ceefax) (s) (66583)
11.00 Film: *The McKenna Break* (1970). Crisp second world war drama in which German POWs try to escape from a camp in the Scottish Highlands. Starring Brian Keith, Helmut Griem and Ian Hendry. Directed by Lamont Young (25912). Northern Ireland: A Fair Day (725854). 11.35-1.05am Film: *High Anxiety* (101380)
12.45am Weather (8817626). 12.50 Close
2.15 BBC Select: Executive Business Club (42171). Ends at 2.45

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BBC2

- 8.00 News (3145622) 8.15 Bitten By the Bug (r) (316583)
8.30 Women of Our Century: Dame Sylvia Crowe (r) (62458)
9.00 Cricket: One-Day International. Highlights of yesterday's match between England and Pakistan (r) (s) (8304093)
9.50 Film: *Love from a Stranger* (1936, b/w). Durable British suspense thriller, based on a novel by Agatha Christie. A woman learns that her new husband may be a killer. Starring Basil Rathbone and Ann Harding. Directed by Rowland V. Lee (445941)
11.15 Film: *Coak and Dagger* (1946, b/w). Routine second world war spy thriller in which scientist Gary Cooper is sent to Italy to retrieve vital information on the German atomic bomb. Directed by Fritz Lang (6757653) 1.00 After Hours (6124847)
1.20 Melvin and Maureen's Music-a-Grams (r) (s) (63069361)
1.35 Swim: Beginners. Learning to swim (r) (61728800)
2.00 News and weather (95799038) followed by *The Secret Reads*. An RSPB film about the bird life of a reed bed (58398106)
2.30 Sign Extra. With signing and subtitles (r) (361)
3.00 News and weather (4480019) followed by *Songs of Praise* from the Giant's Causeway, County Antrim (r). (Ceefax) (s) (7744651)
3.40 A Week to Remember (b/w). Paul Robeson's 1952 (r) (6000309)
3.50 News and weather, regional news and weather (6099293)
4.00 Osprey Watch. An RSPB film (r) (6400477)
4.15 Film: *Three Faces West* (1940, b/w) starring John Wayne, Sigrid Gurie and James Cagney. An unusual western, with elements of anti-Nazi propaganda, about Austrian refugees heading for a new life in Oregon. Directed by Bernard Vorhaus (9976361)
5.30 Gardeners' World with Liz Ryghy (r) (477)
6.00 Film: *Scaramouche* (1952). Colourful swashbuckler about a French nobleman who sets out to avenge the death of his friend. Starring Stewart Granger. Directed by George Sidney (58134125)



Sisters and brothers: Jane Saxby leading a full life (7.50pm)

- 7.50 Shaking the Heavens: Sisters of Mercy
● CHOICE: This week's film in celebration of old age features three women octogenarians from Liverpool who have gained fulfillment in their mature years through service to the community. It seems an admirable recipe for keeping active, as well as a way of forgetting one's own troubles. Two of the women are widows and one lost her daughter to a hit-and-run driver. Still playing the trombone at 84 and why shouldn't she? Sister Hilary Barber runs adult education classes and is organising a training school for redundant seamen. Mabel English started fostering difficult children when she was 70, and 20 years on her door is still open. Jane Saxby, a hearty 89-year-old, marches in support of better pensions and exerts the elderly to enjoy their sex lives. The film gains by being told in the women's own words, without a mediating commentary. (Ceefax) (s) (394496)
8.30 Floyd on Spain: The Basque Country. Keith Floyd continues his gastronomic tour of Spain. (Ceefax) (2090)
9.00 The Mary Whitehouse Experience. Offbeat comedy (r) (s) (4816)
9.30 The John Bull Business: How do the fortunes of the City affect the rest of the country? (Ceefax) (153926)
10.10 The Works: Waiting Work
● CHOICE: The first of a series of short films in praise of modern engineering works hetically through such objects as the ring-pull can, the rifle, the aircraft ejector seat and the motorway crash barrier. The treatment is pure pop video with a cascade of sound and image designed presumably to stimulate the senses but in danger of dulling and bewildering them. Among the restless montage of close-ups, cut-outs, fast and slow motion and talking heads, the film manages to put across much solid information and enable us to see everyday objects in a fresh and more admiring light. Few of us, probably, would have thought of the ring-pull can as the "engineering masterpiece" the film claims, but after watching this vigorous exposition of its design and manufacture admiration becomes difficult to withhold (74816)
10.30 Newswatch (301356) 11.15 Nation. A debate on a topical subject (702303) 11.35 Weather (80777)
12.00 Open University. Maarten Van Heemskerck: Humanism and Painting (36930). Ends at 12.30

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (1219962)
9.25 Jumble. David Jensen and Debbie Rice are the guests on the cryptic word game show (s) (7859503) 9.55 Thames News (2858748)
10.00 Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers. Cartoon (2868125)
10.25 The Fantastic Adventures of Mr. Ross. Animated fantasy (r) (2861212) 10.55 ITN News headlines (3205361)
11.00 On Tales. Farmland and (r) (3220338)
11.25 Just for the Record. More record-breaking achievements (r) (s) (1910019) 11.50 Thames News (9382854)
11.55 Cartoon Time (6719458)
12.10 Treasure Box. Early learning series (r) (5966800)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News. (Oracle) Weather (754200) 1.05 Thames News (5308457)
1.15 Home and Away. (Oracle) (707632)
1.45 A Country Practice. Australian medical drama (s) (706903)
2.15 The Home Show visits a Pennsylvania farmhouse (s) (721212)
2.45 Families. Anglo-Australian soap (s) (9256729) 3.10 ITN News headlines (4491125) 3.15 Thames News (4490496)
3.20 The Young Doctors. Hospital drama series (6222477)
3.50 Children's ITV. Cartoon Time (s) (6716000) 3.55 The Rattles. Animated fun (r) (6055030) 4.05 Disney's Duck Tales. Cartoon adventures (r) (3731309) 4.30 Cartoon Time (r) (9315274) 4.40 Children's Ward. Drama series (r). (Oracle) (s) (6421854)
5.10 Blockbusters. Bob Holmes hosts the quiz for teenagers (4607212)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather (742816) 5.55 Thames Help (r) (27895)
6.00 Home and Away (r). (Oracle) (616) 6.30 Thames News (496)
7.00 Emmerdale. Kim rejects Frank. With Claire King and Norman Bowler. (Ceefax) (1361)
7.30 Nature Watch: Horns of Dilemma. Would clipping the horns of the African rhinoceros deter poachers? Julian Pettifer talks to expert Clive Walker. (Oracle) (380)
8.00 The Bill: Ed. Ed Greig's (Andrew Mackintosh) pretty, blonde witness has a habit of disappearing (7509)



Idle thoughts: Hywel Bennett, the philosopher (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Shelley: Happy Birthday RIP. Comedy with the idle philosopher, starring Hywel Bennett (s) (6816)
9.00 Mistress of Suspense: A Bird Poised to Fly
● CHOICE: The occasional series of Patricia Highsmith adaptations returns with a tale of obsessive and unrequited love. A Bird Poised to Fly was made as long ago as 1969, suggesting that it has been pulled off a dusty shelf to fill a gap in the schedule. Paul Rhys plays a young architect who has a romantic fling with a Swiss journalist (Ingrid Held), finds her gone the next morning and lets his mind stray into fantasy as he tries to get her back. The main plot is echoed with that of another affair, where the roles are reversed, and there is a macabre climax. But the promised suspense is mostly lukewarm and the feeling is that a slight story which may have worked well on the printed page has been overwrought. Better luck, perhaps, next week when another Highsmith tale features the splendid Ian Richardson. (Oracle) (3293)
10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Stewart and Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) Weather (51729) 10.30 Thames News (6955564)
10.40 Film: *Coogan's Bluff* (1968). Don Siegel's tough and lively thriller which spawned the McCloud television series. A headstrong deputy sheriff (Clint Eastwood) encounters city bureaucracy when he arrives in New York to escort a prisoner back to Arizona. With Lee J. Cobb (r) (822449)
12.30am Prisoner: Call Block H (4712171)
1.20 Video View. Mariella Frostrup reviews Demi Moore in *The Butcher's Wife* and Mick Jagger in *Freddie* (7873978)
2.20 The Equalizer. McCall (Edward Woodward) helps a Czech scientist to defect to the West (r) (5162794)
3.10 Donahue. Patti Davis, daughter of Ronald and Nancy Reagan, talks about Kitty Kelley's biography of her mother (3737688)
4.00 60 Minutes. American news magazine (89735)
5.00 The Shoeless Joe. A film is sent to live with her aunt (17978)
5.30 ITN Morning News (64713). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily (3019944)
9.25 Radar Men from the Moon (b/w). Space adventures (7340019)
9.40 Footrot. Animated canine adventures (2402729)
9.55 Get Smart: Tale of Two Russes. Espionage spoof (6482632)
10.20 Star Test with director Ken Russell (r) (1286589)
10.50 Remote Control. Anarchic comedy quiz (r) (s) (8083019)
11.20 Things to Come. Predicting the future (r) (3224596)
11.50 R or NW (b/w). A romantic comedy on the importance of using the correct London postcode (672747)
12.00 The Moustache: Cyrano De Moustache (b/w). Comedy with the ghoulish family. Starring Fred Gwynne (84670)
12.30 Don't Quote Me. Geoffrey Perkins hosts the panel game based on the sayings of the famous and infamous (r) (s) (10583)
1.00 Sesame Street. Early learning series (r) (15038)
2.00 Film: *Everybody Sing* (1938, b/w). A teenage Judy Garland stars in this jolly musical about an eccentric theatrical family which is upstaged by its servants. With Fanny Brice and Allan Jones. Directed by Edwin L. Marin (305748)
3.40 On a Wing and a Prayer. A documentary about the pioneering aviator Amelia Earhart (4384651)
4.00 A Houseful of Plants. Floella Benjamin and Michael Jordan with tips on growing indoor plants (r). (Teletext) (309)
4.30 Countdown. Words and numbers game (s) (293)
5.00 Simply the Best. Kit Chapman's gastronomic tour of England continues with recipe ideas for edible flowers (9767)
5.30 Owl TV. The wildlife magazine reports on the Liberty campaign to save dancing bears. (Teletext) (545)
6.00 Desmond's: Driving Me Crazy. Desmond (Norman Beaton) retakes his driving test (r). (Teletext) (s) (458)
6.30 Roseanne: Friends and Relatives. Dan lends money to Arnie. Starring Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman (r). (Teletext) (598)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow. (Teletext) Weather (133496)
7.50 Countdown. A personal opinion (3164)
8.00 My Darling Debra. Eek Forbes (Mervyn) finally gets a date with Jools (Debra Gillett). (Teletext) (s) (8651)
8.30 Film: *Last Train from Gun Hill* (1959). The Hollywood Greats season continues with this effective western starring Kirk Douglas as a marshal who tracks down the man who raped and murdered his wife, only to find that he is the son of old friend Anthony Quinn. Directed by John Sturges. (Teletext) (27369125)



Out of the ordinary: Michael Caine in profile (10.20pm)

- 10.20 Hollywood Greats: Michael Caine — Breaking the Mould
● CHOICE: Michael Caine was surely not the first working-class actor to play working-class characters on the screen, as Julie Walters claims here, but he may have been the first star to wear glasses and speak in a cockney accent. The American profile has unglamorous virtues from Walters, Bob Hoskins, Ben Kingsley and others and a useful contribution from Caine himself, who talks much sense about the craft of film acting. The concentration on his best movies helps you to forget the many bad ones and probably makes Caine look more versatile than he is. His forte, as it was with John Wayne, Gary Cooper or Cary Grant, is to work subtle variations on a familiar persona. The few glimpses of his private life reveal a determination to compensate for a deprived upbringing and an awesome knowledge of the plant world. (Teletext) (1985090)
11.30 Empty Nest: Strange Bedfellows. American comedy series starring Richard Mulligan as a widowed doctor (r) (21274)
12.00 Ma Vlast: The Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra under Raphael Kubelik performs the complete cycle of Smetana's symphonic poems (s) (63035)
1.30am Film: *Sinbad* (1955). Dated drama starring Dirk Bogarde as a farmer caught up in the Mau Mau terrorist uprising in Kenya. Directed by Brian Desmond Hurst (442437). Ends at 2.30

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- SKY ONE**
● Via the Astra and Maripolo satellites
6.00am Sunrise (4107212) 9.30 Nightline
5.40am 10.00 Dayline (63774) 10.30 Beyond 2000 (64670) 11.30 Japan Business Today (9523632) 11.45 International Business Report (2309922) 12.30 Good Morning America (2456) 1.30 ABC News (45187) 2.30 Nightline (75477) 3.30 Our World (87019) 4.30 Beyond 2000 (1496) 5.00 Live in the 1970s (6380) 6.30 Newsline (89740) 7.30 Target (74309) 10.30 Newsline (89740) 11.30 ABC News (20361) 12.30 Newsline (43978) 1.30 ABC News (59863) 2.30 Target (14358) 3.30 ABC News (19881) 4.30 Beyond 2000 (44442) 5.30 Newsline (84591)
SKY MOVIES+
● Via the Astra and Maripolo satellites
6.00am Showcases (9526767)
10.00 Law and Disorder (1989). The marshal confronts the local underworld (38903)
12.00 The Guns and the Fury (1981). Two of men drilling and trouble (15008)
1.35pm The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes (1970). Billy Wilder's great detective (4194530)
4.00 Detention (1966). The heroes besieged by their less plus rubber suit (1380)
6.00 Law at Random (s) (10am) (8446262)
7.40 Entertainment Tonight (707564)
8.00 Best of the Best (1989). An intergalactic team enter a kick boxing contest (76167)
10.00 Air America (1990). MIA snuggles down for the CIA (r) (777)
12.00 A Man Called Galt (1990). Spoof war film (445777)
1.40am S.O.L. (1991). Julie Andrews plays an avowed actress (478551)
4.00 Weekend at Bernie's (1989). Two boys cry copious tears on holiday (34720). End at 5.35am

- SKY SPORTS**
● Via the Astra and Maripolo satellites
6.00am Sports (95835)
6.30am Sports (46372) 7.00 Sports (74038) 8.00 Sports (58767) 8.30 Sports (58767) 9.00 Sports (58767) 9.30 Sports (58767) 10.00 Sports (58767) 10.30 Sports (58767) 11.00 Sports (58767) 11.30 Sports (58767) 12.00 Sports (58767) 12.30 Sports (58767) 1.00 Sports (58767) 1.30 Sports (58767) 2.00 Sports (58767) 2.30 Sports (58767) 3.00 Sports (58767) 3.30 Sports (58767) 4.00 Sports (58767) 4.30 Sports (58767) 5.00 Sports (58767) 5.30 Sports (58767) 6.00 Sports (58767) 6.30 Sports (58767) 7.00 Sports (58767) 7.30 Sports (58767) 8.00 Sports (58767) 8.30 Sports (58767) 9.00 Sports (58767) 9.30 Sports (58767) 10.00 Sports (58767) 10.30 Sports (58767) 11.00 Sports (58767) 11.30 Sports (58767) 12.00 Sports (58767) 12.30 Sports (58767) 1.00 Sports (58767) 1.30 Sports (58767) 2.00 Sports (58767) 2.30 Sports (58767) 3.00 Sports (58767) 3.30 Sports (58767) 4.00 Sports (58767) 4.30 Sports (58767) 5.00 Sports (58767) 5.30 Sports (58767) 6.00 Sports (58767) 6.30 Sports (58767) 7.00 Sports (58767) 7.30 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